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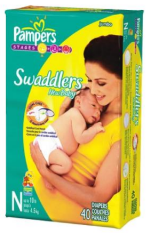

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Celebrity Buzz

Simpson, Corgan an item?

pg 35

Movies

Up In The Air up there

pg 25

Tickets available for Games figure skating training

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

SESSIONS Olympic organizers are looking to raise more money from ticket sales by opening up figure skating training sessions for the 2010 Winter Games.

Seats to seven sessions at the figure skating venue will be available at a cost of $30 each plus fees.

It will be the only training event open to the general public, said Caley Denton, vice-president of ticketing for the organizing committee.

Tickets go on sale Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?

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World pg 12

Obama accepts Nobel prize

Movies pg 22

Invictus stars on top of game

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Bust Pills stamped with Olympic rings

JEFF THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Insp. Brad Desmarais on Thursday shows off 107,000 tablets of ecstasy confiscated by Vancouver police. About a third of the pills are stamped with the Olympic logo. Story, page 2.

Mayor off to Copenhagen

City has good news for summit

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson is headed to Copenhagen on Friday for a mayors' conference identifying what the world's biggest cities are doing, and can improve upon, in the fight against climate change.

Robertson will be armed with good news from Vancouver, where per capita greenhouse gas emissions are the lowest in North America.

He said Vancouver is disproving the conventional belief that emissions can't be reduced in a city with a growing population.

"Our goal in going to Copenhagen is to show that cities can lead (and) can change the world," Robertson said.

"I'm going to be taking the story of Vancouver's success and talk about our goal to be the green capital and attract green business."

Greenhouse gas emissions in Vancouver have been reduced by 11 per cent from their peak in 2000 to 2.7 million tonnes a year, and the city has reduced emissions from its own operations by 33 per cent through retrofits and the construction of more efficient buildings.

"Whether it's the many energy efficient features of the Olympic Village project, our approach to land-use planning or the city's transportation options, we are going to meet our Kyoto targets and in the process set the standard for North American cities," Robertson said.

On Monday, the city signed a memorandum of understanding with B.C. Hydro to build a charging network for electric cars and create financial tools to enable profitable investment in building energy retrofits.

They've also partnered with Vancouver-based Pulse Energy, which will use energy management software to reduce energy consumption in the city's largest buildings.

Emissions

- Vancouver's greenhouse gas emissions are down to 1990 levels, while population has increased 27 per cent and jobs by 18 per cent.
- Greenhouse gas emissions from city buildings will be 22 per cent below 1990 levels by 2010, while floor space has increased by 24 per cent.

White stuff on its way and city's bracing for it

The rest of Canada got theirs last week and now it's Vancouver's turn to brace for the first snowfall of the year.

Flurries are expected to start Friday afternoon, but Environment Canada says the snowfall should be mild and scattered.

"Nothing big by the looks of it," said meteorologist John McIntyre. "(The flurries) will continue through the night and into Saturday."

He said as much as 10 cm could fall on Sunday night — which may make for a slower Monday morning commute — but by then the temperatures will be climbing back above zero.

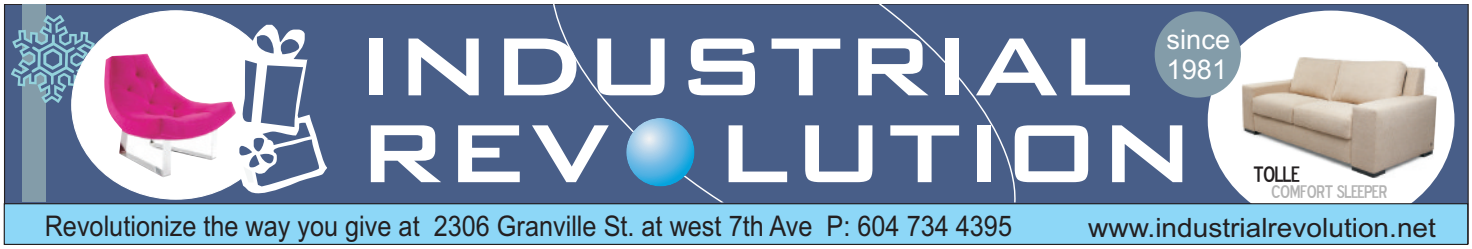
With any luck, this winter's snowfall won't be as severe as it was last year — but if it is, the city will be a bit more prepared.

Murray Wightman, manager of street operations for Vancouver, said five new snowplows have been added to the fleet of 46, and the city has two new snowblowers, including a $16,000 machine picked up at auction.

KRISTEN THOMPSON / METRO VANCOUVER

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Murray Wightman shows off new snow removal machine.



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Local

New Olympic award in Fox's honour

VANOC will announce the creation of a new athletic award named in honour of Terry Fox, left, at an event in Ottawa on Friday. The award will be presented to an Olympian exemplifying courage, perseverance and humility during the Games at a ceremony in Vancouver in late February. METRO VANCOUVER

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Crash course trains Olympic greeters

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

WORKERS They're being asked to memorize the names of the Olympic mascots.

They're learning to wave graciously like Queen Elizabeth when indicating what direction an attraction is in, instead of pointing because in some cultures pointing is rude.

They're being told they need to learn which icon goes with which Olympic sport, and they're being asked to be able to identify city councillors on sight.

They are 550 Vancouver city staffers — ranging from permit-issuers to planners — who have been spending time recently in one-day training sessions to prepare themselves for their new roles as 2010 Olympics greeters.

Some of those exercises are causing mild hilarity at city hall, but the overworked man in charge of Vancouver's Olympic preparations, deputy city engineer Peter Judd, said they're necessary to help ensure "service excellence."

As well, added Judd, not all municipal staff who will be working at the city's live sites or other facilities are accustomed to front-line work. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bust nets pills stamped with Olympic rings

DRUGS The Olympic motto — Faster, Higher, Stronger — took on a new meaning Thursday as Vancouver police carted out a drug haul that shows that local dealers are also getting into the Olympic spirit.

Police displayed 107,000 tablets of ecstasy worth more than $1 million.

About a third of the pills, coloured orange and green, were stamped with the Olympic rings.

"We are pretty sure that is not the intended spirit of the Olympics," said Insp. Brad Desmarais, who heads the department's gangs and drugs section.

"I would imagine because the Olympics are coming up, the traffickers thought it might be fun to put the Olympics on the pills."

Other tablets, coloured blue and yellow, were imprinted with the peace sign.

Desmarais said the haul was one of the top-five largest ecstasy busts in the city's history.

The pills were seized Wednesday following a home invasion at a house in East Vancouver.

A 911 call on Wednesday morning brought police to a house in the 4300 block of Nanaimo Street. The front door was kicked in. Police entered and arrested two men.

Police found the pills — as well as two chunks of cocaine worth about $17,000 that they say was recently shaved from a brick — as they swept the house for possible victims.

The two men were released on several conditions, including not being allowed to attend nightclubs or raves.

JEFF HODSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

SEAN KOLENKO/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Natalie Fitz-Earle, left, with her 10-month-old daughter Sana, and Rhian Walker with her four-month-old daughter Morgan at a climate-change rally outside Sears Thursday night.

Worried moms campaign against climate change

Go Green

ENVIRONMENT Photos of thousands of Canada's children were projected on the wall of Sears' downtown store yesterday to send a message to Prime Minister Stephen Harper as he participates in the climate summit in Copenhagen this week.

The event was part of the Moms Against Climate Change campaign, a nationwide initiative by parents concerned about their children's futures due to climate-change issues. The photos were shown from 4:30 to 7 p.m. downtown and from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at Metrotown Thursday.

The campaign is a partnership between Toronto's Environmental Defence group and Vancouver's ForestEthics unit. ForestEthics spokesperson Merran Smith, a mother of twin baby girls, stressed how important children's roles are in affecting climate change.

"This is our reminder," she said. "We're talking today, but it's for tomorrow. It's for our children's future."

"My baby can't talk, so I've come down to talk for her," said North Shore resident Natalie Fitz-Earle. "I've come down from my dinner table because this issue cannot wait."

SEAN KOLENKO/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Inukshuk unveiled

Richmond symbol meant to guide speedskaters

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Speed Skating Canada unveiled a large aluminum inukshuk in Richmond Thursday on the shores of the Fraser River that they hope will guide skaters to the podium in 2010.

The inukshuk, superimposed with the image of a speedskater made of gold-coloured aluminum, was erected on the dyke outside the University of B.C.'s boathouse — the home of Canada's speedskaters during the Games.

"Speed Skating Canada has adopted this symbol to lead our teams to success," said Dr. Peter Dankers, SSC's chair of the 2010 inukshuk initiative.

The five-metre-tall sculpture was fabricated from 10 to 12 tonnes of aluminum by trades students in Trois-Rivières, Que., who spent three months casting and welding the large sections.

Auction

- The inukshuk will be auctioned off on Feb. 25 at the UBC boathouse in Richmond. Speed Skating Canada hopes to make $250,000 from the auction of the sculpture.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie and members of Speed Skating Canada pose for a photo with an inukshuk on the dyke in Richmond.

Gilles Dufour, the director of technologies for Alcoa Innovation, said the inukshuk was cast at 900 C, about 400 C higher than its melting point. The cooling gave the aluminum a "sweaty" appearance. The skater by comparison is made of "beautiful" gold-coloured anodized aluminum, Dufour said.

Two similar, but smaller, structures will be erected at skating centres in Trois-Rivières and Quebec City.

Three suspects face charges in February stabbing death

CRIME Three men have been charged in connection with the murder of a Vancouver man outside a Richards Street nightclub on Feb. 1 after an emotional plea from the victim's family generated tips to police.

Patrick Avery Plowman, 30, Sebastian Lucas Miazga, 24, and Kalum Lather Cain, 25, are charged with manslaughter after a 10-month-long investigation of the late-night stabbing of 21-year-old Tyson Edwards.

Major crimes Insp. Mike Porteous called it "an intense cross-country investigation." STIG NIELSEN/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

THANKS The B.C. RCMP have received a deluge of letters from Americans — many of whom live in Washington State — thanking Canadian police forces for their attendance at the memorial service of four Tacoma-area police officers on Tuesday.

HIT AND RUN A man turned himself in to RCMP after a hit an run in Burnaby Thursday morning that left a woman dead. The victim was walking on Imperial Avenue near Marlborough Street at 8 a.m. when she was hit by a white van, which then sped off.

OFFENDER Vancouver police are warning women about a violent offender who is now living in the city and deemed to be at high risk to re-offend. Paul Richard Haley, 40, was convicted of manslaughter in 2003 for killing his girlfriend and has a history of domestic violence against his partners.

SCAM The Surrey RCMP are looking for two men and a women believed to be scamming the South Asian and Fijian community. The victims are convinced to buy discounted precious stones, which they would re-sell to a buyer for a profit. Victims have lost between $10,000 to $70,000 each. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Former figure skater becomes first torchbearer in the House of Commons

Canada's Sweetheart, 81-year-old former figure skater Barbara Ann Scott, carried the Olympic Flame through the House of Commons yesterday — a historic first. Scott, who is from Ottawa, won the Olympic Gold Medal in the 1942 St. Moritz Games in Switzerland. METRO NEWS SERVICES

'Photographers of the past'

Film gets its day in the sun at Vancouver Photo Marathon

SEAN KOLENKO
for Metro Vancouver

Film photography is back — if for only a day — this Saturday in Yaletown.

Sixty local photographers will be put to the task of capturing different elements of the city based on secret themes announced every hour at the Vancouver 12x12 Photo Marathon.

Photographers are expected to produce one image per hour for 12 hours beginning at 8 a.m. The event will be headquartered at Blenz Coffee on Helmcken Street.

The marathon is the brainchild of Burnaby resident Morten Rand-Hendriksen.

"We chose film because we wanted to replicate a true to life feeling for photographers of the past," he said.

Rand-Hendriksen moved from Norway in 2002. "There is just so much talent here," he said. "I just wanted to reach out to all the photographers and bring them together."

Tickets went on sale this past Monday and sold out that day. Rand-Hendriksen was expecting around 40 participants, but sold the maximum of 60 tickets within hours.

"I'm still getting emails from people who want to participate but we just can't accommodate more," he said. "The response has been crazy."

Photos from the event will be displayed in a gallery showing on Jan. 16 as well as on the Internet at the Blenz online gallery.

SEAN KOLENKO/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Morten Rand-Hendriksen with film cameras.

Learn more

- For more information on the photo marathon, visit the event website at vancouverphotomarathon.com/blog, or visit the Twitter account @12x12@YVR.

News in brief

BLAZE Police on Thursday identified the body found Nov. 30 in a burned-out Vancouver home as 51-year-old Kevin Richard Boyce. Investigators confirmed the fire was arson.

PROTEST Members of the United Church held a fast and vigil outside the North Vancouver constituency office of Conservative MP Andrew Saxton Thursday. The fast aimed to draw awareness about climate change and the UN climate talks in Copenhagen.

DRIVING A Langley man who is banned from driving for life has been arrested for allegedly being behind the wheel again. George Slater, 38, had his licence permanently revoked after being convicted of criminal negligence causing death in 1998.

MISSING Police are asking for help finding two missing Banff teenagers who may be in Vancouver. Alexander Haley and Madison Smith were last seen on Tuesday on their way to school. RCMP say they likely ran away. METRO NEWS SERVICES

2010 Showing their support

SEAN KOLENKO/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Promoters working for BCLC on Georgia Street in -1 C weather on Thursday. They're promoting SportsFunder 2010, which is giving away Olympic tickets, including 20 to the Men's Gold Medal ice hockey game.

Van crash inquest calls for more vehicle checks

SAFETY The jury at a coroner's inquest into the deaths of three women in a van crash near Abbotsford, B.C., has called for more random inspections of vehicles used to transport farmworkers.

The workers were killed in March 2007 when the van, which was overloaded and had seatbelts for just two of the 15 people inside, flipped over on the Trans-Canada highway onto a concrete meridian.

The jury ruled the crash accidental but made 18 recommendations, including the increased inspections and that 15-passenger vans be classified as high-risk vehicles.

The jury also recommends farmworkers be given a better education about their rights and that the provincial transportation ministry look into replacing concrete highway barriers with steel cable barriers.

Earlier at the inquest, family members of the three women voiced anger there were no criminal charges against the driver of the van.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Driver fined

- The driver, Harwinder Gill, was fined $2,000 for driving without a proper licence and without reasonable consideration.

Supreme Court rejects mom's appeal over dental mercury

COURT A B.C. mother has lost her personal battle against the use of mercury in dental fillings.

The Supreme Court of Canada has refused to hear an appeal from Zsuzsanna Holland.

Acting without a lawyer, Holland hoped the high court would hear her claim that she and her children were harmed by mercury use by dentists.

Holland represented herself during her lengthy battle through B.C.'s lower courts, arguing unsuccessfully that 17 mercury-based fillings poisoned her and her children after she had dental work in 1982.

The B.C. Court of Appeal unanimously rejected her case. Canada's highest court has now refused to intervene, dismissing the appeal with costs awarded to the numerous parties named in the civil case, including the province, the provincial environment minister, his ministry and B.C.'s environmental management branch.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Air firms seek restitution for 2010 costs

TRANSPORT Small aviation companies are lobbying federal officials and politicians, seeking compensation for what they say will be big disruptions due to Olympic security rules.

Members of the Air Transport Association say tighter regulations and flight restrictions are going to cost some of them big bucks and they want Ottawa to cover a part of the cost.

For example, flying schools at Boundary Bay airport just outside Vancouver expect to lose 70 per cent of their business for the two months around the Olympics.

Fixed costs, such as rent, won't go away even if business does.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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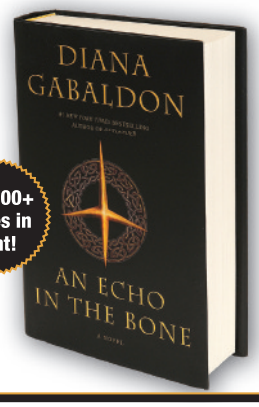

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Canadian universities aim to recruit Chinese students

Representatives from 14 Canadian universities will try to attract Chinese doctoral students to their schools during a recruitment mission in Beijing starting Friday, competing with institutions from eight other countries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

$50K reward in homicide case

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary is offering a $50,000 reward for information about a human skull found near St. John's in 2001, which they believe is from a homicide victim. Police released this reconstruction of a man who they believe died in Newfoundland and Labrador in the late 1990s. He probably lived in Quebec, Ontario, or possibly the northeastern United States, and he was likely born in the late 1950s or early 1960s, officers said. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Top court to hear case on Air India legal bills

The legal tussle over a multimillion-dollar legal bill between the B.C. government and a man acquitted in the Air India bombings is headed for Canada's highest court.

Ripudaman Singh Malik

The Supreme Court of Canada said Thursday it will hear an appeal by the province over documents seized in connection to the assets and liabilities of Ripudaman Singh Malik.

In March 2005, Malik and co-accused Ajaib Singh Bagri were acquitted by a B.C. Supreme Court judge in the 1985 bombings of two separate Air India flights that killed a total of 331 people.

Prior to the start of the trial in 2003, the B.C. government signed an agreement with the millionaire businessman to pay the costs of his defence team up front. Malik was to repay the government the cost of his 11-member team. He hasn't done so, despite government demands dating back to December 2005.

Malik is suing the Crown for malicious prosecution, and launched legal action in 2007 arguing that he shouldn't have to pay if his allegations prove true in court. He also claimed the deal he made with the province to repay his legal fees was made under duress. The Crown then launched its own court action, alleging Malik and his family members conspired to defraud the Crown by hiding his assets and disguising his net worth. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa Torch comes to Commons

Former Canadian Olympic figure skater Barbara Ann Scott carries the Olympic torch into the House of Commons during a ceremony on Parliament Hill, in Ottawa, on Thursday.

No plans to tax bonuses: Flaherty

BANKS Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said Thursday he has no plans to tax excessive bonuses handed out to bank executives, but warned Canadian bankers they must follow international guidelines on compensation. He said he will insist that Canadian bankers follow the newly established rules set down by the G20 on compensation, but that he won't go so far as to create a new tax. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

EMBEZZLEMENT A former employee of a northern Manitoba First Nation is facing charges after police allege she embezzled more than $1 million from the band. RCMP officers spent a year investigating cash transfers made between 2003 and 2008.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Opposition votes to get Afghan documents

TERROR Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government has lost its iron grip on information about detainee treatment in Afghanistan after a showdown that pitted the power of the ruling party against the power of Parliament and the combined force of the opposition parties.

The Liberals narrowly pushed through a motion in the Commons on Thursday that forces Harper's government to release waves of unedited documents so that Parliament can examine whether Afghan prisoners detained by Canadian forces were subject to torture when handed over to local authorities, and what the government knew about the issue.

The motion passed with a vote of 145 to 143.

It is not clear how that information will be released in days ahead, or whether the government will continue to resist the documents' release.

Failure to hand over the material, however, could result in the Conservative government being found in contempt of Parliament and could see the Commons asking the police to step in and obtain the information that has now been formally ordered released.

The government fought hard Thursday against the release of information, arguing that the Taliban would profit from the data, while soldiers and Canada's partners abroad could be compromised.

Information about when and how Canadian officials visit particular prisons, for instance, "would be of great value to the insurgents, and to the terrorists," said Justice Minister Rob Nicholson.

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Via Rail says service has been restored between Edmonton and Winnipeg after several CN Rail tanker cars jumped the tracks near Spy Hill, Sask. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Parliament hits back, bans Greenpeace T-shirts

Greenpeace T-shirts have been banned from Parliament after the organization staged an illegal demonstration on the Hill this week.

The ban is due to "recent events," a security guard told a reporter from The Canadian Press who entered the Parliament buildings as a visitor Thursday wearing a Greenpeace T-shirt.

The reporter put on the shirt to confirm reports that security was searching visitors for Greenpeace logos.

The T-shirt was brought to the attention of nearby officers, who told the reporter she could not enter the buildings.

They relented after she agreed to turn the T-shirt inside-out.

A House of Commons security guard then issued a stern warning: "We won't tolerate anything. We will charge you."

"We won't tolerate anything. We will charge you."
Security guard

About 20 Greenpeace activists were arrested Monday after scaling the roof of the Parliament buildings and unfurling a sign attacking Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff for their environmental positions.

The protest embarrassed RCMP and other security officials.

Heather Bradley, a spokesperson for the Speaker's office, said it is routine for guests to be obliged to remove attire that may "disrupt" proceedings.

"When someone is invited in as a member of the public in either the chamber or a committee, they're invited in as an observer, that's it," she said.

"They're not a participant, they're an observer."

Bradley offered the example of several visitors who were recently asked to remove anti-abortion pins before entering the public gallery.

New Democrat MP Libby Davies said she understands Monday's protest may have heightened tensions, but Parliament Hill is a place that should defend freedom of expression.

"The fact is, wearing a T-shirt that says Greenpeace on it does not mean that you're going to do something out of line," she said.

"I think they need to have a measured and reasonable response."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Afghan inquiry off until spring

TORTURE A public hearing by a military watchdog into the handling of Afghan prisoners was dealt a blow on Thursday.

The hearing was rescheduled for the spring — raising fears Ottawa may never let it proceed.

Doubts were raised about its future amid the fallout from Gen. Walt Natynczyk's explosive revelation that a Canadian-captured detainee was indeed abused.

His remarks demolished Tory government assurances that there was no evidence of torture prior to 2007.

Respected war crimes prosecutor Peter Tinsley — the outgoing chairman of the Military Police Complaints Commission — said it was necessary to set a date for the resumption of the inquiry.

"It's certainly unusual ... for the constitution of a panel hearing such a significant matter to be wilfully altered."
Peter Tinsley

But the Tories have yet to appoint his successor — something that could further delay or even kill the proceedings.

"It's certainly unusual, if not unprecedented, for the constitution of a panel hearing such a significant matter to be wilfully altered at this stage," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal **Riot police douse flareup over Olympic flame**

PETER MCCABE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protesters hold a sign in Place Jacques Cartier in the Old Port of Montreal prior to Olympic torch celebrations on Thursday. More than 100 protesters gathered, chanting "No Olympics on stolen native land." Riot police had to intervene to push back protesters, CBC News reports. No arrests were reported,

Help charities, Ottawa told

TAX LAWS Non-profit organizations are calling on the federal government to change income tax laws to make it easier for philanthropists to donate private company shares and real estate to charities.

"The government has the opportunity to unlock significant additional amounts of private wealth for public good," said an open letter signed by Toronto Mayor David Miller and 26 heads of universities, hospitals, cultural organizations and other charitable groups.

The letter urges the federal government to introduce two amendments to the Income Tax Act in the upcoming budget that would eliminate the capital gains tax on gifts of private company shares and taxable real estate.

The changes would bring Canadian tax law in line with what is allowed in the United States, letter notes.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

OTTAWA Parliament was to wrap Friday for the fall session. As the holiday recess begins, election fever has fizzled, the Conservatives are stronger than ever, while the Liberals are wounded and regrouping. Canadians, it seems, do not want another election and it appears they are prepared to punish the Liberals if they spark one.

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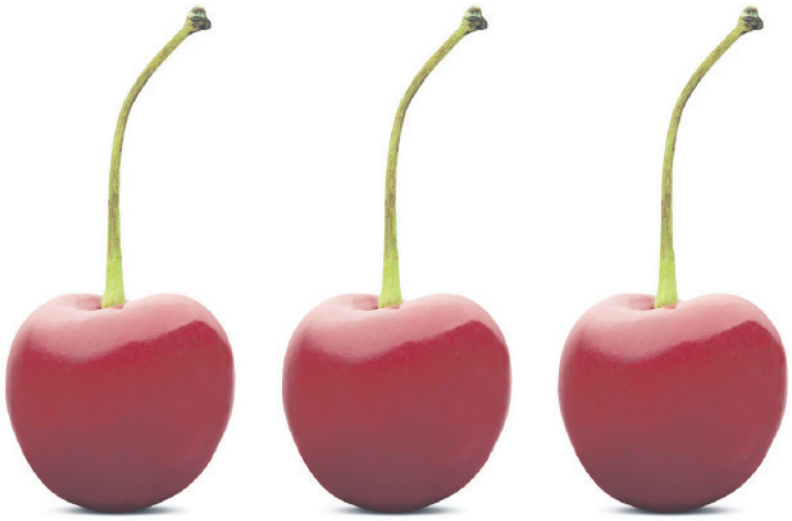

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Comment

A higher education?

Man wanted to start Bible class at elementary school

UrbanCompass

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/sullivan

Here's a question to chew on this morning, along with your granola: Should "Some Guy" be allowed to start a Bible study class in his boys' public elementary school?

Some Guy in question is Paul Jubenvill of Cloverdale, and because the authorities in the Surrey School District won't let him do it, he threatened to:

a) Take it to the sidewalk in front of the school;

b) File a complaint with the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal.

Before you dismiss the latter idea with a quick snort (not into the granola please), remember this is B.C., the greatest place on Earth, where Some Other Guy, a clerk for Shoppers Drug Mart, was once awarded $30,000 by the Human Rights Commission for hurt feelings and lost wages after he refused to put six artificial poinsettias on display because, as a Jehovah's Witness, it violated his religious beliefs to do so.

Sadly, it looks as if we won't benefit from the wisdom of the tribunal on this one — after thinking about it overnight, Jubenvill has withdrawn the complaint and will now try to get a meeting with school officials. After all the fuss he's created, good luck with that. Jubenvill says he's just happy to get into the news — more exposure for the Lord, as if He isn't already seriously overexposed.

"(Paul) Jubenvill says he's just happy to get into the news — more exposure for the Lord, as if He isn't already seriously overexposed."

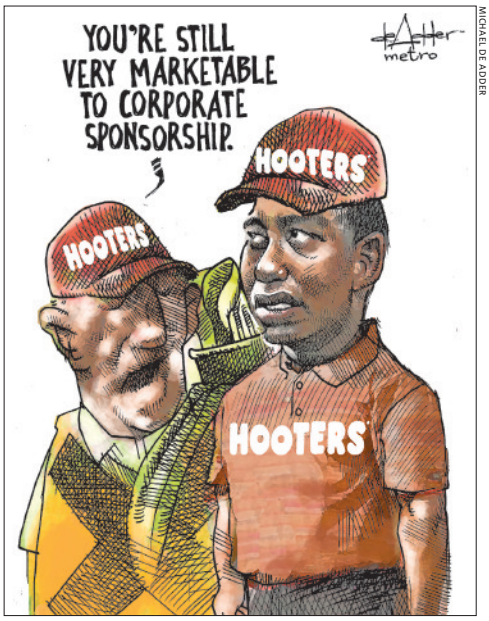
Public schools must be an awful temptation for certain people who want to indoctrinate their children … in public. I'm not sure why they want to take up space otherwise reserved for healthy, secular pursuits like dodgeball or sex ed, but there's always Some Guy who thinks what we really need is a theocracy. Heaven on Earth, that sort of thing.

But here's the kicker. Apparently, Surrey high schools already have religious clubs. Oh, that's different, says district spokesperson Doug Strachan. How is that different? We pay school taxes so our kids will learn to read and write, not speak in tongues.

I realize I may sound a little intolerant to our Christian/Muslim/Animist/Jewish/Buddhist/Hindu readers — to just about everyone, in fact — but seriously, evidence-based education is constantly under fire and we have to keep plowing the trench between church and state. There are plenty of churches, mosques and temples where you can let your faith be your guide.

But for a few hours a day, let's give the kids a chance to figure out the world without your (no doubt valuable) assistance. I'm sure they'll give you their full attention the other 18 hours of the day.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Not such a rosy picture for aboriginals

Bernd Christmas

Poverty is a fact of life facing many Aboriginal Peoples in Canada.

The UN recently ranked Canada fourth on its quality of life ranking and paints a rosy picture. Officially called the Human Development Index, it measures criteria such as life expectancy, literacy, school enrolment, gender parity and the economy to get a snapshot of a country's quality of life.

Let's look at this from the perspective of the aboriginal community in Canada. Statistics show the aboriginal infant mortality rate is 1½ times higher than the Canadian infant mortality rate. An aboriginal man will die 7.4 years earlier than a non-aboriginal Canadian. An aboriginal woman will die 5.2 years earlier than her non-aboriginal counterpart.

Unbelievably, 70 per cent of aboriginal students on-reserve will never complete high school. Graduation rates for the on-reserve population range from 28.9 to 32.1 per cent annually. About 27 per cent of the aboriginal population between 15 and 44 years of age hold a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree, compared with 46 per cent of the Canadian population within the same age group

As for gender parity to date, S.67 of the Canadian Human Rights Act does not apply to First Nations, thereby greatly hindering any advancement toward gender parity.

On economic terms, unemployment rates for all aboriginal groups continue to be at least double the rate of the non-aboriginal population. Aboriginal persons living in a family setting are about three times more likely to have incomes below the poverty level than is the case for other Canadians. An aboriginal person earns, on average, an income of $20,940 versus that of a non-aboriginal of $35,872 — the median income is $14,477 versus $25, 955 respectively. Or in other words, 80 per cent have incomes below $30,000 per year.

Statistics on the health of Aboriginal Peoples is grim. The suicide rate is more than twice the Canadian rate. Suicide is now among the leading causes of death among aboriginal youth between the ages of 10 and 24, with the rate estimated to be five to six times higher than that of non-aboriginal youth. Diabetes is at least three times the national average. Tuberculosis rates are eight to 10 times higher than those for the Canadian population.

It is wonderful that Canada is held in such high regard by others, but once you start to peel back the layers, an uglier picture emerges … Aboriginal Peoples' poverty.

Bernd Christmas is a Mi'kmaq lawyer practising aboriginal and corporate law. www.berndchristmaslawgroup.com

Worth mentioning

Guidelines unveiled for Spanish grammar

Can a Barcelona truck driver be expected to speak like a Buenos Aires banker? Can rules be imposed on a language spoken by 400 million people stretching from Madrid to Manila?

The academic overseers of the language of Cervantes have taken an ambitious stab at it, unveiling their first Spanish grammar guidelines in nearly 80 years.

The fruit of their toil is a nearly 4,000-page tome in two volumes presented Thursday, with yet another to come out next year.

20 The book is billed as a sort of linguistic map that painstakingly documents today's Spanish in all its richness — there are nearly 20 ways to say ballpoint pen, for instance — and how it varies from country to country, or within one, or from one social class to another.

It was produced by the Spanish Royal Academy and 21 sister organizations in Latin America and other countries where Spanish is spoken and has taken them 11 years to compile.

The task undertaken by the academics was so gargantuan that the final product not only is spread into three volumes, but also comes in two smaller sizes: A 750-page manual geared toward students and teachers of Spanish, and a simplified 250-page version aimed at the general public.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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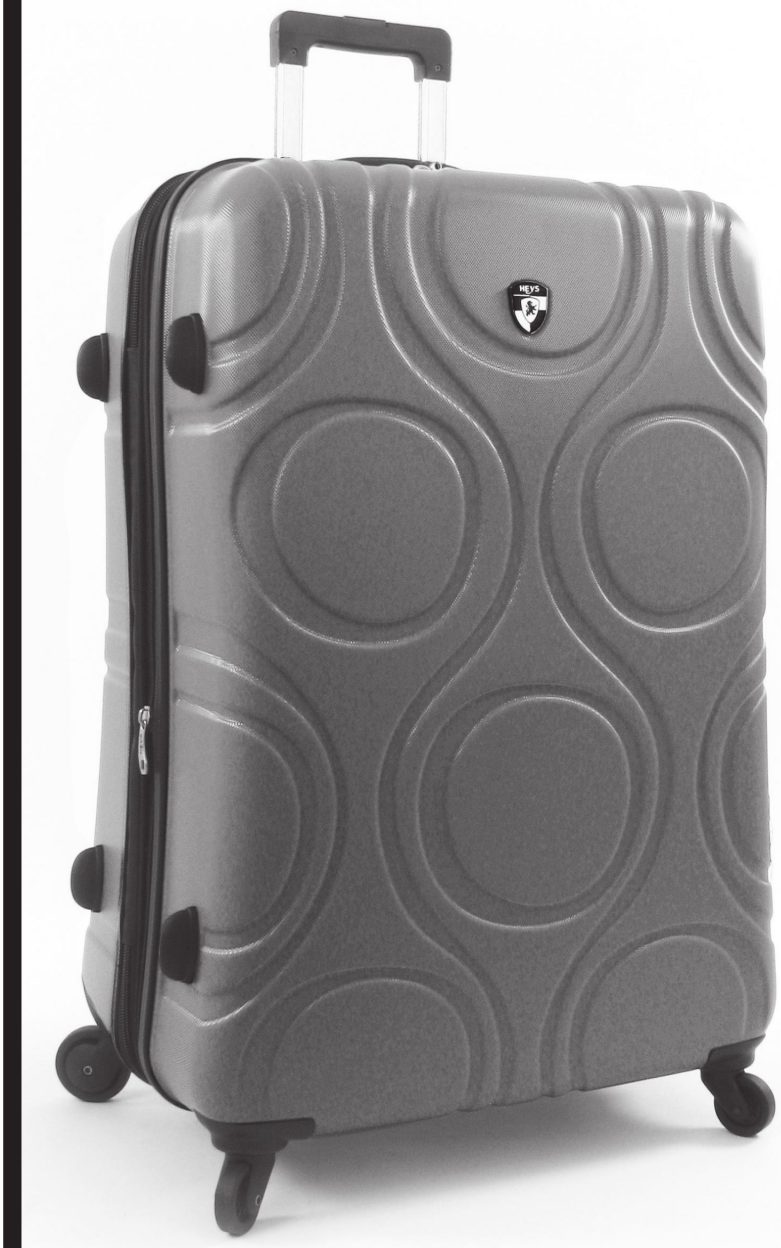

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Classical treatment?
A group of Israeli doctors have found the soothing sounds of Mozart may help premature babies grow faster. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Stalin grandson ruling upheld

Russian news reports say that a court in Moscow has upheld a lower court's ruling against Josef Stalin's grandson in a libel suit over a newspaper article that denounced the Soviet dictator's repressions. Its verdict rejected the claim of Yevgeny Dzhugashvili, left, that Novaya Gazeta damaged Stalin's honour and dignity in an article that referred to him as a "bloodthirsty cannibal." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

57 held in Philippines

Militiamen demand murder, banditry charges dropped

Officials negotiated for a second day with government-armed former militiamen who took 57 villagers hostage in the southern Philippines to press their demands that murder and banditry charges against them be dropped.

The abductions Thursday by 15 gunmen raised fresh questions over the government's long-standing policy of arming civilian volunteers to protect against insurgencies. Just the day before, 100 other militiamen in the south were accused of slaughtering civilians in the country's worst political massacre. Hours after the kidnapping, a government negotiator persuaded the gunmen to free the 17 schoolchildren among more than 70 people they initially held.

They continued to hold 57 hostages, most of them women. Negotiations resumed early Friday outside three remote hilltop huts in the southern Philippine hinterland where the gunmen had holed up with their captives, said chief negotiator Josefina Bajade.

"So far, so good," she said, adding the gunmen "committed to me that nobody will be harmed."

The hostage-takers in San Martin hamlet in Agusan del Sur province are former militiamen who had been dismissed and turned to banditry and extortion, targeting mining and logging companies in the area, said police Chief Superintendent Jaime Milla. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama humbled yet hawkish

NORWAY U.S. President Barack Obama accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on Thursday in Oslo with a striking defence of war, saying that evil must be vigorously opposed even as he made an impassioned case for building a "just and lasting peace."

Pronouncing himself humbled by such an honour so early in "my labours on the world stage," Obama nevertheless turned his Nobel moment into an unapologetic defence of armed intervention in times of self defence or moral necessity.

It was a jarring moment when Obama, in the midst of the ceremony, said of U.S. troops in Afghanistan: "Some will kill. Some will be killed."

He lauded previous Nobel winner Martin Luther King Jr., as a preacher of nonviolent action. But he added, "A nonviolent movement could not have halted Hitler's armies. Negotiations cannot convince al-Qaida's leaders to lay down their arms."

He drew laughter when he acknowledged "the considerable controversy that your generous decision has generated."

"My accomplishments are slight," Obama said, by comparison to such "giants of history." In addition to other Nobel winners, he said the unrecognized masses who fight for peace are "far more deserving." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLAUS BJOERN LARSEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian and Alaskan Inuit demonstrate against U.S. President Barack Obama receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, in front of the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark, Thursday.

News in brief

CHINA The Golden Lamp Church was built to serve nearly 50,000 worshippers. But that was before hundreds of police and hired thugs descended on the church, sending dozens of worshippers to hospitals with serious injuries, members say. The closure of what may be China's first mega-church is the most visible sign that the communist government is determined to rein in the rapid spread of Christianity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Crackdown after South African citizenship given away
South Africa on Thursday suspended dozens of officials being investigated for giving citizenship to mainly Pakistani foreigners. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Emails fuelling skeptics

Go Green

At a critical time, the uproar over stolen emails suggesting scientists suppressed contrary views about climate change has emboldened skeptics — including U.S. congressional Republicans looking to scuttle President Barack Obama's push for mandatory reductions in greenhouse gases.

MANISH SWARUP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Activists release sky lanterns to express hope for the ongoing Copenhagen climate conference, in New Delhi, India, Thursday.

The email brouhaha, dubbed "Climategate" by doubters, comes as U.S. delegates to the international climate conference in Copenhagen are trying to convince the world the United States is determined to move aggressively to rein in heat-trapping pollution.

To counter the delegates, a group of Republican lawmakers is going to Copenhagen to argue against mandatory greenhouse gas reductions.

The climate skeptics gained political momentum when former Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin said Obama should boycott the negotiations in Denmark and "not be a party to fraudulent scientific practices" — a clear reference to the purloined emails from computers belonging to scientists at a British climate research centre.

Obama is going anyway.

Former vice-president Al Gore, the most recognized U.S. voice on climate change, quickly rebutted Palin and accused the climate deniers in an interview with CNN television of "taking things out of context and misrepresenting" what the emails actually said.

That has not stopped Republican members of Congress, two dozen of whom are writing a letter to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon demanding that he investigate the emails. Republican lawmakers say they will loudly and often raise questions about what they consider a corruption of climate science at the Denmark conference, where delegates from 192 nations are trying to forge a climate agreement.

It all began when hackers broke into a computer system belonging to a climate research centre at Britain's University of East Anglia, stole several thousand emails spanning a decade between some of the worlds leading climate scientists, and three weeks ago put some of the spiciest ones on the Internet. One referred to using a "trick" that could be used to "hide the decline" of temperatures.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Deep' evidence

- More than 1,700 scientists in the U.K. have signed a statement to defend the "deep and extensive" evidence that climate change is real and is the result of human activity.

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U.S. Senate backs bill to protect journalists' sources

WASHINGTON A bill to protect reporters' confidential sources in U.S. federal court cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday, ending months of stalemate. The so-called media shield bill went to the full Senate, but it's not certain that it would become law this year. Even if the Senate acts, the legislation would have to be reconciled with a different version approved by the House earlier this year. The bill does not give journalists absolute authority to protect sources. Those rights can be overridden in national security cases.

The legislation has broad support from journalism organizations. Conservative Republicans and some in the intelligence community believe it can harm attempts to track down leakers of classified national security information.

Shortly before the committee approved the bill 14-5, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat, tried to tighten the definition of a journalist. Sponsors of the legislation, however, said it was difficult to craft a definition with changes in journalism, including proliferation of Internet sites of all types and bloggers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

BRITAIN H1N1 flu is far less dangerous than originally feared, British officials said Thursday — about 100 times less lethal than the 1918 Spanish flu. In a paper published online in the British journal BMJ, experts estimated that out of every 100,000 infected people in Britain, about 26 died. That is about 100 times less deadly than the devastating 1918 Spanish flu, which killed at least 50 million people worldwide.

TURKEY A methane gas explosion ripped through a coal mine in western Turkey on Thursday, trapping about 15 miners, a local official said. Around five workers were pulled out and were hospitalized, he said.

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Toyota plans to hire 800 people
In another sign that conditions in the Canadian auto industry are improving, Toyota Canada plans to hire 800 more people at its plant in the southern Ontario town of Woodstock. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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US .37¢	US 42.3¢	US 13¢	85.35

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Stability threatened: Bank

Review finds conditions improved, but debt poses risk

Mounting governmental and household debt are posing new risks to the stability of financial systems, the Bank of Canada said Thursday in its most recent analysis.

The central bank's semi-annual "Financial System Review" finds that overall conditions have improved in the short term since it last reported in June.

But it adds that record-high debt by Canadian households pose an elevated medium-term risk if a second financial or economic shock were to materialize.

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney has warned in the past about Canadians getting in over their heads with large mortgage commitments that don't appear problematic given today's low interest rates.

The bank repeats the warning in its systems review, stressing that rates aren't going to remain at historic lows forever and mortgage payments will rise.

This is both a potential problem for households and banks, the report states.

"When borrowing funds, especially in the form of mortgages, households need to assess their ability to service these debt obligations over their entire maturity, taking into account likely changes in both income and interest rates," the report stresses.

And the bank says lenders, such as the chartered banks, should be careful about extending mortgage loans even if they are insured.

That's because a borrower's default on mortgages would impact other loans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Review

- The Bank of Canada notes that its review of potential risks is not intended as a prediction of what is likely to occur, but an early warning system of potential risks.

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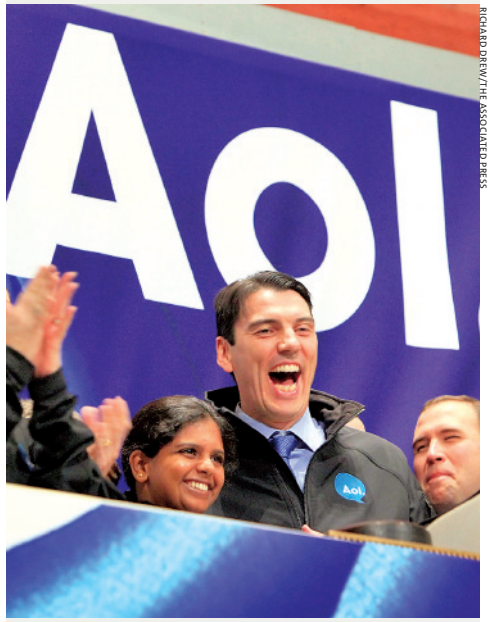
New York **Ring my bell**



RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AOL chairman and CEO Tim Armstrong, centre, smiles during opening bell ceremonies of the New York Stock Exchange Thursday. Shares of AOL declined in early trading Thursday as the Internet company made its official split from media giant Time Warner.

Exports go up 3.4 per cent

PROFITS Canada's merchandise exports rose 3.4 per cent in October, led by a strong gain in exports to the United States which accounted for three-quarters of the increase.

Statistics Canada reports a trade surplus with the world of $428 million, as imports decreased 0.8 per cent in October compared with a deficit of $850 million in September.

Exports increased by $1 billion to $31.1 billion, as a result of a 2.6 per cent rise in volumes and a 0.8 per cent increase in prices. It was the second straight monthly increase.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lululemon optimistic for holiday season

REVENUE Lululemon Athletica Inc. is at peace with its optimistic outlook for the holiday shopping season, following a 30 per cent revenue spike this fall as cash-strapped consumers continued to scoop up its pricey yoga wear.

The Vancouver-based maker of the uber trendy activewear reported Wednesday a profit of $14.1 million or 20 cents a diluted share in the quarter ended Nov. 1 — up from year-earlier net income of $8.8 million, or 13 cents per diluted share.

Revenue increased 29.7 per cent to $112.9 million from $87 million in the same 2008 quarter, while comparable-store sales increased by 10 per cent.

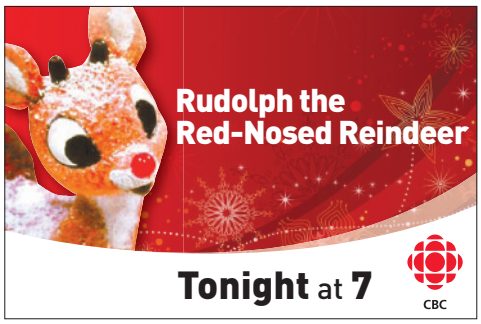
"(We) are very pleased to deliver these results in a challenging retail environment," said CEO Christine Day on a conference call to investors Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

BAILOUT Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told a skeptical watchdog panel Thursday that the Obama administration's decision to keep the government's unpopular bank bailout program going until October was a necessary "limited, qualified extension." "It would be irresponsible to do otherwise," Geithner said. The Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) was due to go out of business at the end of this month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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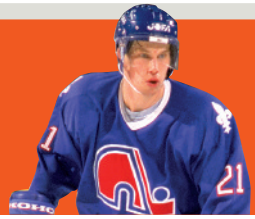
Nicklaus on Woods: "None of my business"

Jack Nicklaus says the fallout over Tiger Woods' car crash and allegations of extramarital affairs is "none of my business." "Our public is pretty forgiving at times," Nicklaus said yesterday. "Time usually heals all wounds. I think the hardest thing is obviously his family. That's a private matter for him and his family." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



NHL keen on Quebec City?

Quebec's premier says he is now confident the NHL is keen on bringing a team back to Quebec City. Jean Charest said he discussed the issue with league commissioner Gary Bettman last week. The premier says Bettman seemed sincerely interested in bringing pro hockey back to the provincial capital. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Sports in brief

BASEBALL Victoria's Rich Harden and the Texas Rangers completed a one-year contract yesterday that guarantees the right-hander $7.5 million US. The deal calls for a $6.5-million salary next year and includes an $11.5-million mutual option for 2011 with a $1-million buyout.

BASEBALL Looking to fill two big holes and add much-needed power to their lineup, the New York Mets have made contract offers to a pair of free agents: Canadian left-fielder Jason Bay and catcher Bengie Molina. The team's bid for Bay, a native of Trail, B.C., was between $60 million and $65 million US over four years. Molina would cost much less.

HOCKEY Detroit Red Wings coach Mike Babcock says Dan Cleary will be out for about a month because of a separated shoulder. Cleary was injured Wednesday night in Detroit's loss to the St. Louis Blues.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL Cincinnati's Brian Kelly has won the Home Depot Coach of the Year award on the same day he told his team he was leaving for Notre Dame. The 47-year-old Kelly went 34-6 in three seasons at Cincinnati, leading the Bearcats to back-to-back Big East titles and two straight Bowl Championship Series berths.

SOCCER Lionel Messi will miss Barcelona's Spanish league match against Espanyol Saturday after he sustained an ankle injury that could jeopardize his playing at the upcoming Club World Cup.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canucks end mini-skid

Daniel Sedin's hat trick helps Vancouver to first win in three games

NHL

Thrashers 2 Canucks 4

AT

Daniel Sedin scored Vancouver's first three goals Thursday as the Canucks ended a two-game losing skid with a 4-2 victory over the Atlanta Thrashers.

Sedin scored twice in the first period when the Canucks were outshot and ran into penalty trouble.

He then touched off a shower of hats and one Santa Claus tuque in the second period when he staked the Canucks to a 3-1 lead.

Mason Raymond also scored for Vancouver in the decisive second period when the Canucks outshot Atlanta 15-6.

Nik Antropov scored to give the Thrashers a 1-1 tie, while Colby Armstrong scored his second goal in as many nights for Atlanta.

The win came in the first of a crucial eight-game homestand and improved Vancouver's record to 17-14-0 as the Canucks gained two points on their idle Northwest Division rivals.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver's Daniel Sedin is checked by Atlanta's Zach Bogosian as he scores on Thrashers' goalie Ondrej Pavelec during last night's game. After his hat trick, Sedin now has six goals in his 13 games this season.

The Canucks are looking to get on a roll at home because they play eight road games leading into the February Olympic break and six more when the Winter Games end.

The Thrashers, playing their third game in four nights, continued their recent struggles with a fourth loss in their last five games to slip to 15-11-3.

Sedin gave Vancouver a 2-1 lead after 20 minutes as the Canucks, who held a players-only meeting following the morning skate, scored 3:09 after the opening faceoff.

He took Shane O'Brien's pass behind the net and beat Ondrej Pavelec on a wrap-around when the Thrashers netminder couldn't get across his crease in time. The lead lasted only 23 seconds as Antropov, unchecked in front of goalie Roberto Luongo, scored off a rebound after Rich Peverley tipped Ilya Kovalchuk's power-play point shot.

Vancouver regained the lead when Daniel Sedin tipped Henrik Sedin's weak shot through Pavelec at 18:38.

Sedin scored again in the second to give him his first three-goal effort since Feb. 6, 2007. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Woods scandal sparks surge in web traffic

GOLF Like any good celebrity scandal, the Tiger Woods drama has triggered a spike in traffic to websites offering details of his Thanksgiving weekend car crash and his alleged extramarital affairs. The lift will likely be fleeting, though, as the shock of the story wears off.

One of the most heavily trafficked sites has been Woods' own site, where he has posted his only public comments about his crash and admitted to "transgressions." The site got 488,000 unique visitors the week of his crash, up from fewer than 11,000 the week before, according to The Nielsen Co.

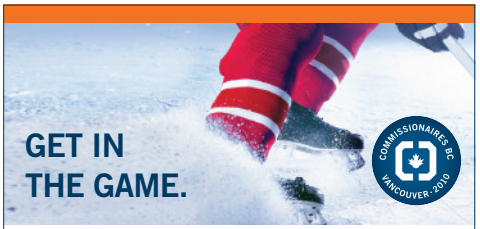
Searches

- Yahoo says searches for Woods' name have increased nearly 4,000-fold over the last 30 days.

The Orlando Sentinel, which serves the area of Woods' home, scored about 1.2 million unique visitors the week of the crash, more than two times the number of visitors the week before, Nielsen said.

Meanwhile, visits to the entertainment site TMZ.com and sports news site Deadspin.com, which both had scoops on the Woods story, were up more than 50 per cent, according to Hitwise, another web analysis firm.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Pirates sign Crosby

Former AL Rookie of the Year Bobby Crosby and the Pittsburgh Pirates agreed Thursday to a $1-million US, one-year contract. The 29-year-old infielder had spent his previous seven seasons with Oakland and won the rookie honour in 2004, when he batted .239 with 22 homers and 64 RBIs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Martin slides past Howard

Glenn Howard's first and only round-robin loss at the Canadian Olympic curling trials cost him an automatic trip to the men's final.

Kevin Martin made a runback double in the ninth end to score three points against Howard late Thursday, advancing to the tournament final and moving one win away from a spot in the 2010 Vancouver Games.

Howard, who went into the game undefeated in round robin play, was leading 6-5 in a tightly played game before Martin's late game heroics handed the Coldwater, Ont., skip a 8-6 loss. Both rinks finished with 6-1 records, but Martin advanced to the final by virtue of the head-to-head win.

"Glenn didn't put his right where he wanted so he left a pocket there. I could have hit off of ours or off of his and the results the same," said Martin, the reigning Brier champion and the 2002 Olympic silver medallist.

Martin will now sit back and watch while Howard and Jeff Stoughton play in Saturday's semifinal.

Stoughton narrowly avoided dropping into a tiebreaker in his game against Pat Simmons. He beat Simmons 8-7 and clinched the final playoff spot. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skip Glenn Howard, back centre, watches skip Kevin Martin, right, throw his rock as second Marc Kennedy, left, gets ready to sweep during the Olympic Curling Trials in Edmonton on Thursday.

Three-way tie for women

- Three teams have tied for third place heading into the playoffs at the Canadian Olympic curling trials. Amber Holland, Stefanie Lawton and Krista McCarville will all take to the ice Friday to determine who gets the final playoff spot after finishing the round robin with identical 4-3 records.

What's it take to be a Canadian flag-bearer?

Field of Play

Scott Russell

metronews.ca/fieldofplay

And so the speculation begins. Who will carry the Maple Leaf into the stadium when the Olympics open in Vancouver? This question preoccupies the musings of many Canadians every time the Games roll around because the subject of who will carry our flag prompts vastly different responses, all of which are laced with tremendous passion. The stakes are even higher because these are our home Olympics.

Some feel that the right and privilege of carrying the flag is an opportunity not to be denied — not even if the task interferes with preparation for imminent competition. Stellar athletes who declined for such reasons in 2006 at Torino were, at times, publicly ridiculed and found themselves having to defend their choices.

There are many characteristics necessary in a flag-bearer. Not only does the athlete have to be of substance on the field of play, he or she has to represent the goodness of Canada. In addition, this country aims to reflect its diversity in the person who bears the standard. Therefore, linguistic, racial and gender equality issues are considered.

"This country aims to reflect its diversity in the person who bears the standard."

Strangely, in a country in love with hockey, our greatest male players who will garner much of the nation's attention are deemed by many to be ineligible because they are professionals — sort of like invited guests at the Games.

It's too bad because the charitable Jarome Iginla, a veteran of three Olympics who scored twice in the gold-medal game in Salt Lake City, might be a great choice. So would Martin Brodeur, the most prolific goalie of all time who will take part in his fourth Olympics.

No, it seems Canada's flag-bearer must be an Olympian first and foremost. The job has to go to someone who has lived the Olympic life.

Without naming names, there are so many fine Canadians to assume this position. By now we should all know who they are because when the time comes they will be representing all of us.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

VANCOUVER 4 Atlanta 2
Ottawa 2 Philadelphia 0
Boston 5 Toronto 2
Nashville 4 Columbus 3 (SO)
Pittsburgh 3 Montreal 2
Phoenix at Los Angeles

NBA

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 104 Washington 102
Detroit 101 Denver 99
Orlando at Utah

NFL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Cleveland 13 Pittsburgh 6

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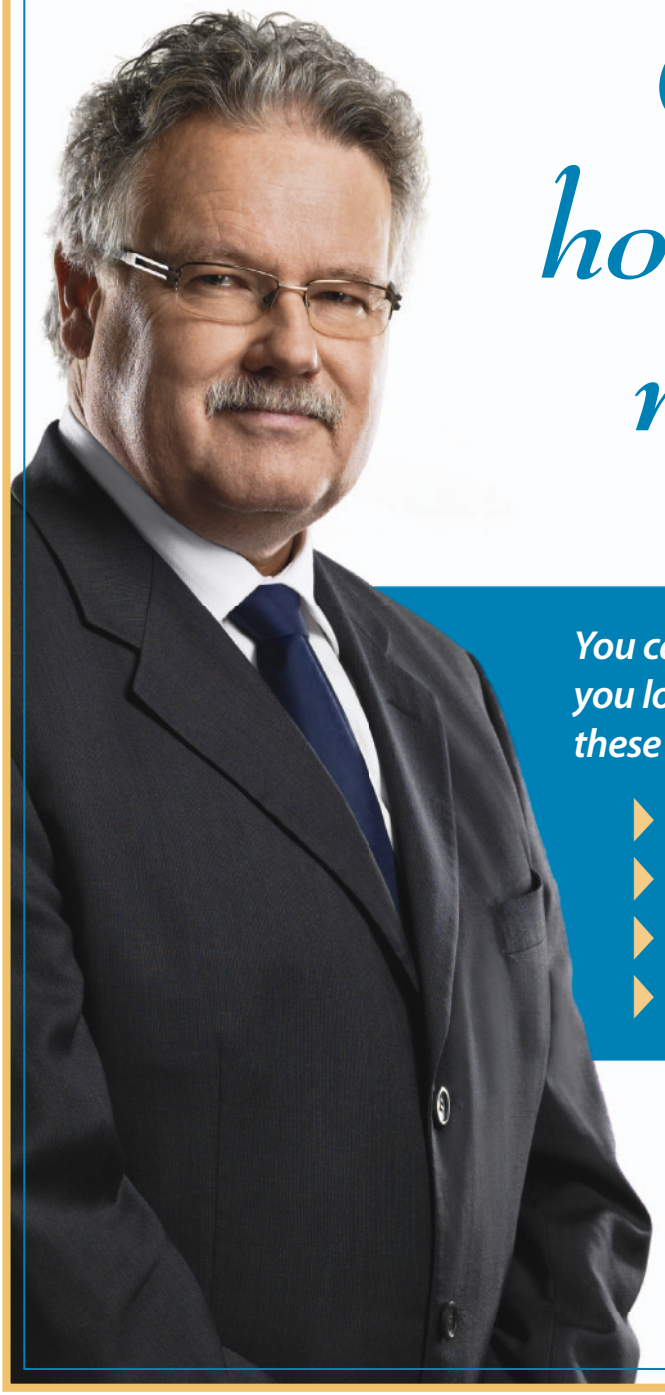

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Canada

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Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Titanic hopes Pg 24

It's been a long time, but James Cameron — of Aliens, Terminator and Titanic fame — is back with his latest movie, Avatar.

Movies Pg 22

Freeman and Damon shine in Eastwood's Invictus.

Music Pg 30

Jared Leto dishes on 30 Seconds to Mars' new album.

Television Pg 32

Friday Night Lights among the top shows of the decade.

At a glance
Invictus ⊕⊕⊕⊕, The Princess and The Frog ⊕⊕⊕⊕½, Me and Orson Welles ⊕⊕⊕, Up In The Air ⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕, The Horse Boy ⊕⊕⊕

Movies

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon star in Clint Eastwood's Invictus.

Stars on top of game

Invictus

Director: Clint Eastwood
Stars: Matt Damon, Morgan Freeman
Classification: PG
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕⊕

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

The main joy of Invictus is watching Morgan Freeman finally, at long last, play Nelson Mandela, a role it was assumed would eventually end up on his resume.

But instead of a long-planned adaptation of Mandela's autobiography, director Clint Eastwood has brought to the screen the story of 1995 Rugby World Cup, held in South Africa, and Mandela's effort to use the event to unite an apartheid-scarred nation.

That Freeman excels as Mandela is really no surprise, but it is fun to watch. The real surprise here is Matt Damon, as rugby captain Francois Pienaar, who turns in a startlingly effecting performance.

Good as the leads are, the rugby itself unfortunately gets in the way. As the sport is more than likely a bit unfamiliar to North American audiences, much effort is made to explain the basics of the game.

Some of these are seamless within the story, such as actual coaching sessions the team held in the townships as an outreach effort.

Others, such as one security guard asking another straight-forward questions about scoring and gameplay, feel far too clumsy — especially in a film that handles so many other complex story aspects so artfully.

The big final match against New Zealand, the film's climax, is played out almost in real time, point by point, leaving Mandela a spectator in his own story as Pienaar's men take the field and wordlessly fight for their nation's honour.

Aside from taking up way too much of the film's time, the game also suffers from too much slow motion, which is what ultimately keeps the film from being a true success.

Whether the audience knows the outcome of the famous game or not, the filmmakers take so long getting to the final whistle that it's hard to care when they do.

• For a trailer of Invictus, photos, screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

Autism doc lacking flow

The Horse Boy

Director: Michael Orion Scott
Stars: Rupert Isaacson
Classification: STC
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

A scene from The Horse Boy.

REVIEW When little Rowan Isaacson was diagnosed with autism, his parents Rupert and Kristin were shocked by medical practitioners' inability to explain the condition.

Instead of becoming frustrated by their son's inconsolable tantrums, the well-traveled couple saw Rowan's autism as a "gateway to adventure" and set off to Mongolia where Rupert (who previously witnessed shamanic healing as a journalist) sought refuge for his son in the nation where shamanism is a "state religion."

As such, The Horse Boy documents the family's extraordinary journey riding horseback across the Mongolian plains, enduring bizarre shamanic rituals and visiting "healing springs."

The result is stunning, even if the film's insights are not.

With some pacing problems and little tension, The Horse Boy succeeds more as a testament to parental love than it does as cinematic drama.

However, with a charming trio of loving subjects and some slyly-placed experts discussing the nature of autism, The Horse Boy will surely enlighten audiences if not fully answer the elusive questions that plagued the Isaacson family in the first place.

Big news.

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Spielberg up for sound award

Steven Spielberg has landed the Motion Picture Sound Editors' (MPSE) 2010 Filmmaker Award. The E.T. director will be honoured at next year's MPSE's Golden Reel awards ceremony held on Feb. 20. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Cameron crunch time

Will Avatar's huge budget and hype sink it?

Movie **feature**

A colossal budget, visionary technology and a down-to-the-wire workload on a film whose fortunes are a real question mark.

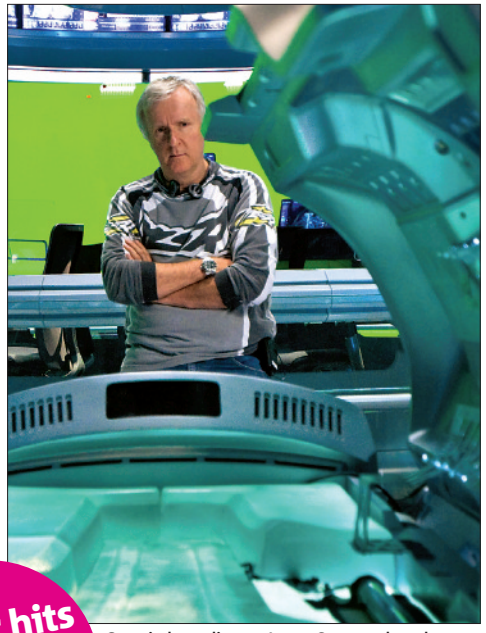
James Cameron has been here before on little ditties called Terminator 2: Judgment Day and Titanic. In case anyone's forgotten how that worked out for him, Titanic stacked up 11 Academy Awards, best picture and director among them, and a record $1.8 billion worldwide at the box office.

This time, the Ontario-born filmmaker's vision is riding on Avatar, a science-fiction epic aiming to push the bounds of digital filmmaking and 3-D presentation into the heavens, with a reported price tag well in excess of the $200 million spent to make Titanic.

Will audiences come along? Cameron thinks so.

"It's hard for me to imagine that short of some massive marketing debacle, that it's not going to work for people. I mean, we may not have a kind of slam-dunk opening weekend that settles the whole case. I don't think the case is going to be settled until week two or maybe week three," Cameron said only days after completing Avatar, just in time for its worldwide blowout next week.

Avatar hits theatres next week



Ontario-born director James Cameron has plenty riding on his new sci-fi epic Avatar.

"Let's face it. It wasn't settled on Titanic till week 10. Titanic was the No. 1 picture for 16 weeks. I don't expect that kind of performance out of Avatar."

Cameron will not divulge what he does expect out of Avatar, wisecracking that if we announce the sequel, then we hit the number.

The director, who had a $200 million smash on Terminator 2 and hits on Aliens and True Lies, has kept fans waiting a long time. Though he's been busy producing, making the underwater 3-D documentaries Ghosts of the Abyss and Aliens of the Deep and developing the technology for Avatar, this marks his first narrative film since Titanic 12 years ago.

Cameron's reputation and a mammoth marketing push by distributor 20th Century Fox virtually guarantee hit status for Avatar. Still, in this blockbuster age, there are hits and there are HITS. The question is whether Avatar can climb to the $300 million or $400 million level of such franchises as Star Wars, The Lord of the Rings and Spider-Man.

Some factors in its favour:

- Science-fiction and fantasy have gone mainstream in a huge way since Cameron's last foray in the field.
- Now that cartoon hits have built fan appetite for digital 3-D films, Avatar is Hollywood's big test for the future of live-action movies in three dimensions. Avatar in 3-D will bring in about $4 to $5 a ticket more than the 2-D version.
- Cameron's a franchise unto himself even when he doesn't score a runaway hit (The Abyss).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

- For movie photos, trailers and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

Disney returns to its roots with The Princess and The Frog.

Frog timeless tale

The Princess and **The Frog**

Director: John Lasseter
Stars: Anika Noni Rose
Classification: G
Rating: ●●●●½

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

It took nearly 15 years and several misfires for Disney to realize what made their animated movie musicals special, but luckily they did, as The Princess and The Frog proves. The ironic part was that it took CGI king John Lasseter to champion a return to the animation studio's roots.

In The Princess and the Frog, there's no winking irony, no out-of-place pop culture references and no rapping grannies.

What's there instead is a beautifully inventive take on a classic fairy tale full of music that pays homage to the film's New Orleans setting while still fitting in the classic Disney vein. The fact that Randy Newman wrote the songs but opted not to sing them himself probably helps a great deal.

The animation featured is a return to form for Disney, making the film feel timeless right out of the gate. The elephant in the room — that the film feature's Disney's first African-American princess — becomes a non-issue so quickly it's ridiculous.

A lot of that probably has to do with the fact that our heroine, Tiana, spends much of the movie as a frog herself, but every aspect of the story is handled so artfully that anyone attempting to ascribe political meaning to anything in it would only make themselves seem foolish.

- For a trailer of The Princess and The Frog, photos, screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

Eclipse coming to IMAX
Like your vampires big, really big? The Twilight Saga: Eclipse is ready to get the IMAX treatment when it comes out next June, Summit Entertainment has confirmed. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Up In The Air's satire flies high

Up In **The Air**
Director: Jason Reitman
Stars: George Clooney
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●●●

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

When Jason Reitman began making Up in the Air, there was no way he could've known how completely contemporary it would actually be.

After all, a poignant comedy that tackles the recession with such stylistic aplomb, one can hardly imagine it's based from a story published years before the current economic crisis.

George Clooney plays Ryan Bingham, a career transitional counselor — or in other words, a guy who spends his day traveling around corporate America telling unlucky employees they're about to be unemployed. While it's a tough job, Bingham enjoys the perks — limitless frequent flyer points, all-you-can-drink mini liquor bottles and a growing itinerant relationship with a sexy counterpart (Vera Farmiga).

Yes, it all seems perfect until he suddenly finds his own job in jeopardy when a young executive (Anna Kendrick) comes up with a cost-cutting measure that will end Bingham's treasured transiency. In an effort to reclaim his stake, he takes the hotshot with him on one last trip to show the importance of his gig — and to maintain his nomadic lifestyle.

As Reitman explores, Bingham's utopia is a ruse however. As much as he preaches "moving is living," we soon discover that there are victims in such a detached lifestyle.

Cleverly conceived from Walter Kirn's 2001 novel, Reitman magically blends the corporate satire of his Thank You For Smoking and the cynical heart of Juno and braces it with a near-perfect performance from Clooney.

As a result, audiences are treated to an intelligent, emotional, thought-provoking comedy that doesn't kowtow to Hollywood predictability.

Although it borrows its plot from bleak subject matter, Reitman lands this craft with a true expert's hand and leaves audiences feeling cinematically refreshed.

George Clooney stars in Up In The Air, directed by Canadian-born director Jason Reitman.

Wife meets ninja
It's not the most obvious of face-offs but Wife Vs. Ninja is set for the screen with DreamWorks. This is the story of a Long Island housewife whose scientist husband leaves her for a young intern, who is in fact a ninja assassin. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Cruz still muse

Actress back with Almodovar in Broken Embraces

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Wildly irreverent Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodovar has forged his legacy and found his following by continuously mining Hollywood clichés and reinterpreting them as high art.

His emotional, sexual and passionate movies have defined Mediterranean cinema for over 30 years, exploring sex, lust and melodrama with wit, style and genuine enthusiasm for the medium.

And though his works have often introduced many internationally acclaimed Spanish actors to North American audiences (he put Antonio Banderas on the map in his wacky 1982 comedy Labyrinth of Passion) there is no disputing the fact that the gorgeous Penelope Cruz is his on-screen muse, his female counterpart.

"I have known Pedro since I was a little girl, I ... would do anything for him. There is no one else like him and I don't think there ever will be." Penelope Cruz

Almodovar has featured Cruz as his heroine more than any other actress, starting with 1997's Live Flesh and continuing with such sensual, visionary fare like 1999's bizarre and beautiful All About My Mother and 2006's equally impassioned Volver.

Broken Embraces opens next Friday

Their latest collaboration is the layered, tragicomic romantic thriller Broken Embraces in which Cruz stars as Lena, a struggling actress trapped in a loveless marriage. When her wealthy, older husband arranges for her to be cast in a new film by a celebrated director (Luis Homar), a lethal love triangle evolves.

"Lena is a very complex character," says Cruz of her troubled alter ego. "In many ways she is a femme fatale in the classic sense, but she's so much more than that. I think of her as three women in one."

With Broken Embraces, Almodovar employs a flashback framework and uses the gimmick of having a film within a film, a device that allows Cruz to assume the visages of various classic Hollywood ingénues including Audrey Hepburn and Marilyn Monroe.

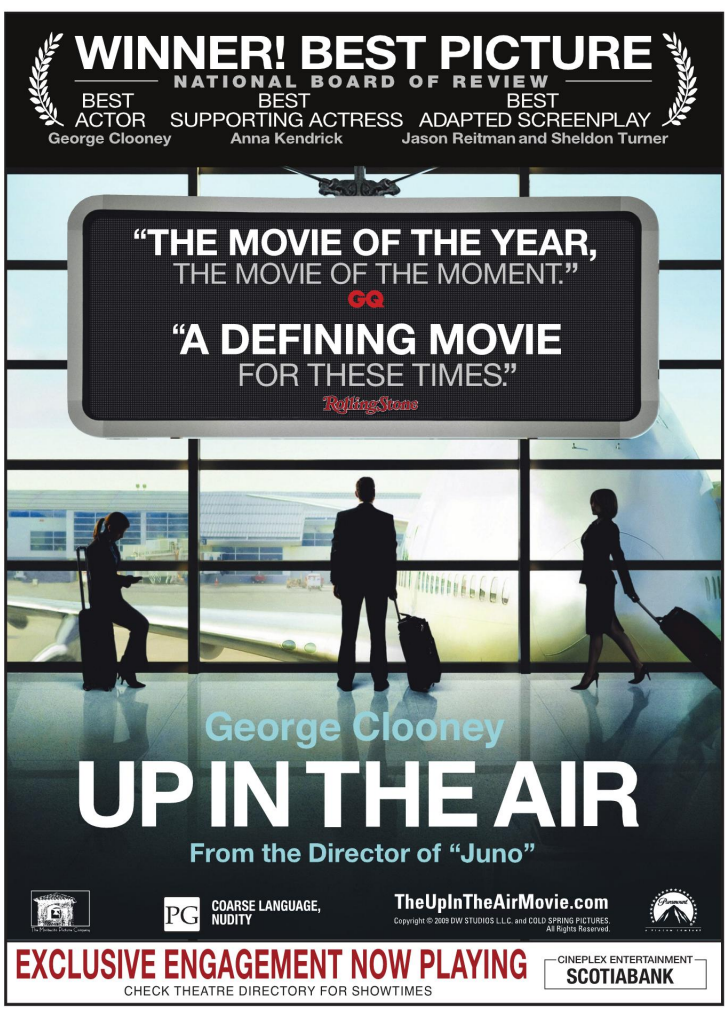
The results are another of the auteur's signature classics, a twisty turny film noir in which Cruz gives her best performance since, well, Volver.

But just because their relationship is strong and enduring, doesn't mean that there isn't any on-set friction between mentor and muse.

"Sometimes there are times when he's not good to be around," the actress admits with a smile.

"He's very open about exactly what he wants and sometimes it can get tense. But I have known Pedro since I was a little girl, I have grown up with him and would do anything for him. There is no one else like him and I don't think there ever will be."

Director Pedro Almodovar and Penelope Cruz share a moment on the set of Broken Embraces.



McKay towers in Welles

Me and Orson Welles

Director: Richard Linklater
Stars: Zac Efron, Christian McKay, Claire Danes
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Sometimes one performance can save an entire film. Take Me and Orson Welles, a fairly bland coming age story set against the backdrop of Orson Welles' infamous 1937 production of Julius Caesar.

The movie is featherweight and predictable, but bursts to life every time Christian McKay appears on screen as Orson Welles.

McKay's performance transcends impersonation to completely capture the complex personality of a young Welles at the peak of his powers and director Richard Linklater (Waking Life) is clever enough to shade in all of Welles' flaws just as carefully as his prestigious talents. It's easily the best representation of Welles ever captured on screen, but unfortunately the film that surrounds the towering performance doesn't quite compare.

The main problem with the movie is that it centres on Teen Beat coverboy Zac Efron rather than Welles.

The High School Musical star plays an ambitious teen who stumbles into a small role in Caesar. Much of the film is about Efron learning hard life lessons from Welles, the cast, and a promiscuous production assistant played by Claire Danes.

Efron's limited range as an actor is stretched to the breaking point in a pretty undemanding role. The script does capture the youthful joy of being involved with the arts reasonably well, but without Orson Welles this would have been a made-for-TV movie at best.

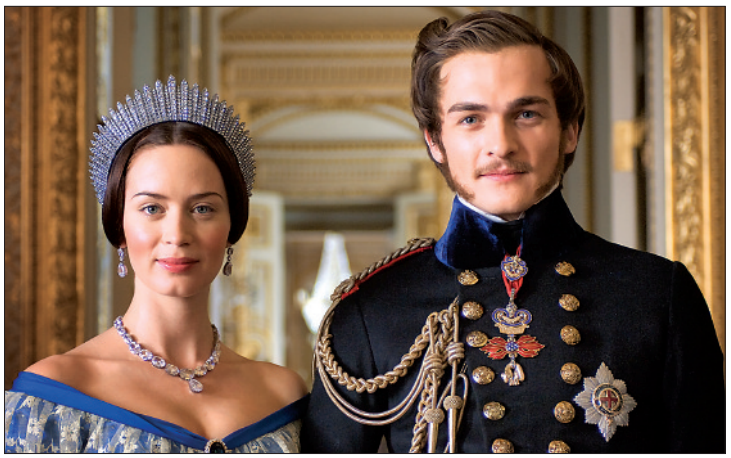
Fortunately Richard Linklater rushes through the plot to spend as much time as possible with McKay's Welles, vividly recreating his expressionistic take on Julius Caesar and filling every scene with subtle details about Welles' early life (such as his use of off-duty ambulances to race around New York).

It's unfortunate that the director didn't just make a film about this era of Welles' life with Christian McKay as the star, because it could have been an interesting bio-pic. As it stands, Me and Orson Welles is merely a pleasant movie featuring one astounding performance destined for awards recognition.

Zac Efron and Claire Danes star in Me and Orson Welles.

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR



A scene for The Young Victoria, directed by Montreal native Jean Marc Vallee.

Victoria by Vallee

C.R.A.Z.Y. director tackles Brit royalty

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

When he was attending this year's Toronto International Film Festival with his film, The Young Victoria — an intimate account of the iconic British monarch's early years on the throne — Jean Marc Vallee's hair was considerably shorter than it was when he was in Toronto for his Genie-winning C.R.A.Z.Y.

This tonsorial disparity speaks to the differences between the two films: Where C.R.A.Z.Y.'s amped-up autobiographical narrative gave the Montreal-based filmmaker licence to let it all hang out, The Young Victoria's subject matter called for a more pared-down approach.

"Normally, period pieces are not my cup of tea," explains Vallee, who took several years to decide how to follow up the critical and commercial success of C.R.A.Z.Y.

"But Julian Fellowes' script was beautiful: He has such a rare way of writing about this world. I felt like I could spend the next two years of my life trying to get it onscreen."

"Normally, period pieces are not my cup of tea. But Julian Fellowes' script was beautiful."
Jean Marc Vallee

The Young Victoria hits theatres next week

Vallee admits that The Young Victoria, which hits theatres next week, is a less personal project than C.R.A.Z.Y., and that he struggled for a while with striking a balance between individual vision and the demands of the costume-drama genre.

"On the credits, it doesn't say (that this is) 'a film by (Jean-Marc Vallee) … it says 'directed by.' What I mean is that I'm not the only one making creative decisions. I had to learn how to work in that sort of new environment. I wanted my voice to be in there, but it wasn't the only one."

This is not to suggest, however, that The Young Victoria lacks any continuity with C.R.A.Z.Y.: While their protagonists are several centuries (and social classes) apart, both films deal with adolescent frustration.

"The story takes place a long time ago, and from research, we have some idea of how these people behaved," says Vallee.

"But there's nothing about how people were behind closed doors. So in the film, when our Victoria forgets her etiquette — when she stands or sits in a certain way, or addresses somebody in an inappropriate manner — it's not because we're trying to relate to a modern audience. It's because it really might have happened that way in private!"

Quebec's Dolan in Globe race

A breakout film by rising Quebec director Xavier Dolan is among the international contenders seeking a Golden Globe nomination for best foreign language film.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which runs the awards bash, says I Killed My Mother is one of a record 69 foreign language films that have qualified for consideration.

Dolan's searing portrayal of a constantly bickering single mother and teenage son, known as J'ai tue ma mere in Quebec, was a smash on the festival circuit, winning raves at Cannes earlier this year.

It's Canada's official entry for consideration for the best foreign film Oscar.

The Golden Globe contenders will be whittled down to five nominees to be announced Dec. 15.

Other acclaimed foreign-language films vying for a nomination include Spanish director Pedro Almodovar's Broken Embraces, French director Jean-Pierre Jeunet's visual feast Micmacs, and German director Michael Haneke's celebrated film, The White Ribbon.

The Golden Globe Awards, hosted by Ricky Gervais, will be broadcast live Jan. 17 on NBC.

I Killed My Mother will be released to theatres in Canada on Feb. 5.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Not a great decade for some
Though they spent the 1990s on top of the celebrity world, both Mel Gibson and Tom Cruise fell from grace with bad, or just plain weird, behaviour this decade. MERO NEWS SERVICES

Reel Time

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Through 10 years of escapism

Decade saw lot of fantasy and comic books make the silver screen

Hollywood picked the right decade to go over the rainbow.

In an era that brought harsh reality home with the war on terror and an economy gone bust, Hollywood became more of a dream factory than ever, embracing fantastic escapism at a time when audiences needed it most.

Though key fantasy franchises such The Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter were in the works in the late 1990s, the films began arriving just months after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The respite they offered lasted just a few hours but who wouldn't want to take a detour to Middle-earth or Hogwarts and forget about the messy state of our own world for that brief time?

Fantasy, science-fiction and superhero sagas have been around since the early years of film, with Batman, Superman and Flash Gordon serials, and such classics as The Wizard of Oz.

But escapism during the Depression and Second World War mostly came in the form of breezy comedies or glossy musical romances.

The past decade solidified the fan boy as Hollywood's key audience, with the final instalments of George Lucas' Star Wars chronicle joining comic-book heroes (Batman, Spider-Man, the X-Men), toy stories (Transformers), and revived franchises (Indiana Jones, Star Trek) to produce a succession of colossal opening weekends.

Teenage girls got their own mega-franchise as the supernatural romance Twilight and its sequel, New Moon, made pretty boys out of traditionally monstrous vampires and werewolves.

Computer animation, pioneered in the 1980s and 1990s, reached new heights with such cartoon smashes as DreamWorks' Shrek flicks and Pixar Animation's stream of critical and commercial favourites, among them Finding Nemo, Up, WALL-E and Ratatouille.

Live-action filmmakers reinvented visual effects with dazzling digital worlds, from Peter Jackson's Academy Award-winning finale for The Lord of the Rings to James Cameron's long-awaited Avatar.

Actors reinvented themselves, too, among them Johnny Depp, who went from that box-office-poison guy who makes weird little arthouse films to one of Hollywood's most-bankable stars with his Pirates of the Caribbean franchise.

Robert Downey Jr. emerged from pariah status as a substance abuser to become an unlikely fortysomething superhero in the blockbuster Iron Man and a rare Oscar nominee for broad comedy in Tropic Thunder, closing the decade as the world's greatest detective in Sherlock Holmes.

Heath Ledger, a best-actor nominee for Brokeback Mountain, was the subject of high drama at the Oscars as his parents and sister accepted his supporting-actor trophy for The Dark Knight last February, just over a year after his death. It was only the second time an actor won an Oscar posthumously.

Ledger's frenzied performance as the Joker in the Batman tale helped elevate The Dark Knight far above its comic-book roots and left fans pondering what else he might have accomplished, both for the franchise and a career cut short.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

High fantasy reigned at the box office this decade with hits such as The Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter and Spider-Man.

Decade of diversity

- Diversity finally came to the Oscars this decade, practically a whites-only affair the previous 70-plus years. In the last decade, six black actors — including Denzel Washington for The Hurricane, Halle Berry for Monster's Ball and Jamie Foxx for Ray — received Oscars, matching the number who had won from 1927 to 1999.
- Hispanics also made progress with acting Oscars for Penelope Cruz for Vicky Cristina Barcelona, Javier Bardem for No Country for Old Men and Benicio Del Toro for Traffic.
- Ang Lee pushed the awards envelope for Asians, winning the best-director prize for the gay-cowboy romance Brokeback Mountain and scoring a best-picture nomination on his martial-arts epic Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.
- While Brokeback Mountain lost best picture to the ensemble drama Crash in one of the biggest upsets in Oscar history. Gay drama did score a victory, however, with last year's Milk, earning Sean Penn his second best-actor honour.

The late Heath Ledger in Brokeback Mountain.

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Screen Times

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Handel's Messiah (STC) A.M. Sat 10
The Road (14A) Fri 4-7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:15

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riotheatre.ca

Brothers (PG) Fri-Thu 7-9:30
Happy to Be Here (STC) Tue 9
The Room (STC) Fri 12
Santa Claus Conquers the Martians (STC) Fri

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
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2012 (PG) Fri-Thu 2-6:40-10:20
Avatar 3D (14A) No Passes Thu 12:01
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:40-5-7:25-9:55
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:10-7:20-10:10
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:50-7:10-9:40
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:40-6:50-9:50 Mon 12:20-3:40-9:50 Tue-Wed 12:20-3:40-6:50-9:50 Thu 12:20-3:40 Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:40-10:40
Up in the Air (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:30-10-10:30 No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799
cinemark.com

Armored (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-3:15-5:35-7:50-10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:10-10:05
Brothers (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20
Everybody's Fine (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:05-2:30-4:55-7:20-9:45
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:30-5:40-7:55-10:10
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-1:30-3:10-4:30-6:15-7:30-9:15-10:25
Me and Orson Welles (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:55-4:35-7:15-9:55
Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:50-5:25-8-10:30
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:55-4:05-6:50-9:20
Red Cliff (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:15-3:25-6:40-9:50 No Passes Mon-Tue 12:15-3:25-9:50 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:15-3:25-6:40-9:50
The Road (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7-9:40

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vifc.org

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The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri-Thu 7
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri 9 Sat-Sun 5-9 Mon-Thu 9

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Armored (PG) Fri 7:25-9:45 Sat-Sun 1-3:55-7:25-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:25-9:45
The Blind Side (PG) Fri 6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:50
Disney's A Christmas Carol (G) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri 6:40-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:40-9:40
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 9:55
Pirate Radio (PG) Fri 7:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20 Mon-Thu 7:20
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:35 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:10-4:15-7:10-9:35 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-9:35

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

2012 (PG) Fri 6:30-10 Sat-Sun 2-6:30-10 Mon-Thu 6:30-10
Brothers (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:20-4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri 7:05-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:20-7:05-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:05-9:40
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) Fri 6:50-9:25 Sat 3:30-6:50-9:25 Sun 12:40-3:30-6:50-9:25 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:25
Planet 51 (G) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 12-3-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:20
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 6:45-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-6:45-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:50

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

2012 (PG) Fri 4:20-7:40 Sat-Sun 1-4:20-7:40 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:40
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri 4:25-7:15-9:45 Sat 1:25-4:25-7:15-9:45 Sun 1:25-4:25-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:15
Old Dogs (G) Fri 4:10-7:10-9:40 Sat 1:20-4:10-7:10-9:40 Sun 1:20-4:10-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10
Planet 51 (G) Fri 4:05-6:55-9:35 Sat 1:10-4:05-6:55-9:35 Sun 1:10-4:05-6:55 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:55
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri 4:15-7:9:30 No Passes Sat 1:15-4:15-7:9:30 No Passes Sun 1:15-4:15-7 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:15-7
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 4:7:05-9:55 Sat 1:05-4:7:05-9:55 Sun 1:05-4:7:05 Mon-Thu 4:7:05

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

2012 (PG) Fri 11:40-2:05-3:15-6:15-6:45-10:05-10:35 Sat 11:40-3:15-6:15-6:45-10:05-10:35 Sun 11:40-1:30-3:15-6:45-10:05-10:35 Mon-Thu 11:40-2:05-3:15-6:15-6:45-10:05-10:35
Armored (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:7:40-10:25
Avatar 3D (14A) No Passes Thu 12:01
Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) No Passes Thu 12:01
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:30-10
Brothers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:25-6:55-9:55
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12-3:30-7:15-10
Disney's A Christmas Carol: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) Fri-Mon 1:30-4-6:45-9:30
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:10-7:35-10:25
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-6:40
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-3:30-7-10:30
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 1:3:55-7:20-9:30-10:20
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:35-6:50-9:35
Paa (PG) Fri-Thu 9:15
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-6:40
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:30-12:30-2:15-4:4:50-6:45-7:30-9:45-10:15
Red Cliff (14A) Fri-Thu 11:35-3:05-7:10-10:40
The Road (14A) Fri-Thu 11:55-3:45-7:15-10:10
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:40-7:25-10:45 Fri-Wed 11:40-2:55-7-10:15 Thu 11:40-2:55-7
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 5

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

Old Dogs (G) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 1-3-5-7-9 Mon-Thu 7-9
Planet 51 (G) Sat-Sun 1-3-5
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 7-9:30

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

2012 (PG) Fri-Thu 11:30-3-6:30-10
Armored (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:30-4:45-7:25-9:50
Avatar 3D (14A) No Passes Thu 12:01
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:40-9:55
Brothers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:45-7:20-10:05
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:35-2-4:30-7-9:40 Mon 12-2:20-4:30-7-9:40 Tue-Thu 11:35-2-4:30-7-9:40
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3:20-6:55-10:15
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Wed 12:30-4:15-7:15-10:25 Thu 12:30-4:15-7:15

The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:15-1:45-4:15-6:45-9:30 No Passes Mon 12-2:20-4:30-6:45-9:30 No Passes Tue-Thu 11:15-1:45-4:15-6:45-9:30
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sat 11:45-3:10-6:35-9:45 Sun 11:45-9:45 Mon-Wed 11:45-3:10-6:35-9:45 Thu 11:45-3:10-9:45 Fri-Thu 12:45-4-7:30-10:30
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 5

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (18A) Fri 4:05-7:05-10:05 Sat 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 Sun 1:05-4:05-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:05
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri 4:10-7:10-10:10 Sat 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) Fri 4:30-7:30-10:30 Sat 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:30
The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri 4:15-7:15-10:15 Sat 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:15
Old Dogs (G) Fri 4:25-7:25-10:25 Sat 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:25 Sun 1:25-4:25-7:25 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:25
Pirate Radio (PG) Fri 4-7:10 Sat 1-4-7:10 Sun 1-4-7 Mon-Thu 4-7
Planet 51 (G) Fri 4:20-7:20-10:20 Sat 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:20

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

2012 (PG) Fri 11:45-12:35-3:15-4:05-7:05-8-10:35 Sat 11:45-3:15-4:50-7:05-9:20-10:35 Sun 11:45-12:35-3:15-7:05-9:20-10:35 Mon-Thu 11:45-12:35-3:15-4:05-7:05-8-10:35
Armored (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:50-7:05-10:25
Avatar 3D (14A) No Passes Thu 12:01
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 11:50-3:40-7:40-10:40
The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (18A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4-7:20-10:20
Brothers (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:30-7:25-10:10
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10:05
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45-7:50-10:30
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:25-7-9:45
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:55-3:20-6:55-10:35
Law Abiding Citizen (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:15-7:55-10:45
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:55-7-9:55
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:10-6:50-9:40
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 11:40-2-4:25-6:55-9:35
Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-10:05
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:35-12:15-2:05-3:40-4:40-6:50-7:15-9:15-9:50
The Road (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-4:10-7:45-10:45
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3-6:40-9:45 Fri-Wed 12:30-3:30-7:10-10:15 Thu 12:30-3:30-7:10
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 5

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 8:45
Planet 51 (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1:30-7 Mon-Thu 7

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Astro Boy (G) Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Thu 6:30
Law Abiding Citizen (14A) Fri-Thu 8:45
The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri-Thu 8:20
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 6:30-8:30
Planet 51 (G) Fri 4:30-6:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30-4:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:30
Where the Wild Things Are (G) Fri-Thu 4:30

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

2012 (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:25-6:45-10:10
Armored (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:40-7:15-9:40
Avatar 3D (14A) No Passes Thu 12:01
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:50-7:10-10:05
Brothers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55-6:55-9:30
De Dana Dan (PG) Fri-Sat 12:35-4:05-7:40-9 Sun 12:35-9 Mon-Thu 12:35-4:05-7:40-9
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:40-5:05-7:25-9:45
Heer Ranjha (STC) Fri-Thu 4:10
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-2:45-7:10:15
Kurbaan (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-7:45
Paa (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:30-6:50-9:55
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10
Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year (STC) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:15-7:50
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4-7:05-9:50
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 5

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

2012 (PG) Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-5-9
Armored (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:40-7:25-10:15
Avatar (14A) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12
The Blind Side (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:55-3:55-9:55
Brothers (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4:35-7:20-10:05
A Christmas Carol (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-4:20-7:05-9:35
Dave Matthews Band 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 2-4:30-7-9:30
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1-4:15-6:45-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1-4:15-6:45-9:25
Invictus (PG) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45-6:50-10
Ninja Assassin (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:30-10:10
Old Dogs (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:55-4:10-7:10-9:50
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4-7:15-9:45
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:40
WWE: Tables, Ladders & Chairs 2009 (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 5

RIALTO
1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criteriontheatres.com

The Blind Side (PG) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25
Old Dogs (G) Fri 7:15-9 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:15-9 Mon-Thu 7:15-9

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Highway, 604-531-7456, criterontheatres.com

Brothers (PG) Fri 7:30-9:40 Sat-Sun 2:20-7:30-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:40
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) Fri 7:20-9:05 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:20-9:05 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:05
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri 7-9 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-3-7-9 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-9
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 7:10-9:35 Sat-Sun 2-7:10-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:35

COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

2012 (PG) Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7:10:30 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:45
Armored (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55-4:15-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:40-10:10
Avatar 3D (14A) No Passes Thu 12:01
Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) No Passes Thu 12:01
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:50-7:10-10:15 Mon-Thu 3:50-7:10-10:15
Brothers (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4-7:20-10:15 Mon-Thu 4-7:20-10:15
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri 1:05-4:10-7:20-10:20 Sat 4:10-7:20-10:20 Sun 1:05-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:20-10:20
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:05-5:30-8:10:25 Mon 5:30-8:10:25 Tue-Thu 5-7:30-10
Disney's A Christmas Carol: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:30-10 Mon 5-7:30-10
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:50-6:55-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:55-9:50
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:35-4:55-7:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:30-10:05
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-3:40-7:05-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:40-7:05-10:20
Law Abiding Citizen (14A) Fri-Sat 12:45-7:25-10 Sun 12:45-10 Mon-Thu 7:25-10
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:35-7:35-10:05 Mon-Thu 3:35-7:35-10:05
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Sun 12:40-4:05-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:45-9:30
Pirate Radio (PG) Fri-Thu 3:55
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:25-4:45-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:10-9:45
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-1-2:30-3:45-5-6:55-7:30-9:40-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:45-5-6:55-7:30-9:40-10:10
The Road (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:55-7:25-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:55-7:25-10:30
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:45-9:55 Fri-Sun 1-4-7:15-10:25 Mon-Wed 4-7:15-10:25 Thu 4-7:15
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 5

Billboard's top albums

1. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli; 3. Fearless (Platinum Edition), Taylor Swift; 4. Untitled, R. Kelly; 5. The Fame, Lady Gaga. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Jared Leto goes to war

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

Jared Leto might be a famous actor and platinum-selling musician, but even he has major record label headaches to deal with. In August last year, EMI sued Leto's band, 30 Seconds to Mars, for breach of contract.

Yet, the band re-signed with EMI before releasing their latest disc, This is War. "We want to be treated fairly," Leto tells Metro over the phone from Los Angeles. "We did get to a place where EMI addressed the concerns we were fighting for."

Still, it may seem a bit odd that the group would sign to any big label after all the trouble the majors gave the group. The band does have a massive following, so why not go the Radiohead route? It was something they considered.

"We looked at what other bands did," he says. "But Radiohead is now being distributed through a major. I started looking at the options and the reality is we're in a transition time right now. Being DIY still leaves the band having to do what it really doesn't want to, which is running a record company."

This is War is the latest album from 30 Seconds to Mars, which features actor Jared Leto, left.

Leaving all the grunt work to EMI allowed the group to try something completely different on their new record. Dubbed The Summit, the group went to several places around the world — including Toronto and Iran — to record fans playing instruments and singing to their new songs; some of these recordings ended up on the release.

"People did everything from percussion to singing to chanting and stomping," Leto explains. "We wanted to turn the audience away from the band and toward our fans around the world."

Working this into their songs wasn't easy. Leto had to plan for these recordings, even though he didn't know how they would turn out, while he was writing the album. "I had to leave space for the Summit in a way you'd map out strings for a record."

"If we're going to make a CD ... we might as well have fun and celebrate the release."
Jared Leto

The result is a louder, more epic 30 Seconds to Mars. Partly because of The Summit and also thanks to Leto's love of big stadium sounds, This is War is a cross between distorted, grungy rock and arena-ready U2. It's brash and energetic, while Leto's wails pierce through the blistering drums and Edge-like guitar.

There's no doubt the band's fans will enjoy the effort, but just in case they need extra incentive to buy their disc, the group solicited its followers to submit photos for the CD's cover art. The group took the best and printed 2,000 covers.

"We did it to drive the record company crazy," says Leto, laughing. "We all know that most of us, me included, don't buy these very often anymore. If we're going to make a CD and go through the trouble of printing out a piece of plastic and putting songs on it, we might as well have fun and celebrate the release."

Grizzly Bear's Vickatimest is one of Alan's top albums of the year.

Best music of 2009

SoundCheck

This is the time of year — and the time of decade (more on that next week) — to make lists. I like lists. They make life so much more orderly. Here's my top ten albums of 2009 in order of release date.

To Lose My Life, White Lies (Released Jan. 12): How can a bunch of guys barely into their twenties already sound so world-weary? Smooth, accomplished and very mature. I knew this was going to be on my best-of list the first time I heard it.

Ruins of Berlin, Dex Romweber Duo (Feb. 10): Some of the scariest psychobilly I've ever heard. Check out Dex's sister wailing on The Wind Did Move.

Primary Colours, The Horrors (May 5): Primary colours? The only colour that matters here is black — and that'll have to do until something darker comes along. If you're hoping for a shoegazer revival, it might have started here.

Vickatimest, Grizzly Bear, (May 26): The hipster bloggers got this one right. Hugely ambitious and challenging yet understandable and accessible. Can't wait for the next album.

Lungs, Florence + The Machine (July 7): Florence Welch looks like she stepped out of a Renaissance painting (and with good reason — she comes from a long line of art historians). Brilliant, bewitching, beguiling and wonderfully quirky. Kate Bush/Tori Amos fans take note.

Horehound, Dead Weather (July 14): I can just hear the voicemail from Jack White's wife: "Honey? Can you take a break and maybe come home so you can learn the names of your children?"

Backspacer, Pearl Jam (Sept. 22): Eddie and the guys get back to basics with a short, concise and optimistic album that rocks better than anything they've released in years.

Black Gives Way to Blue, Alice in Chains (Sept. 29): Against the odds, they pull it off with a new singer. Dark, muscular and complex, it's a reminder of AIC's original potential. There may yet be a second act for these guys.

Landing, Githead (Nov. 10): Surely the greatest album of 2009 that no one's heard. Featuring Colin Newman of Wire, the album harkens back to the post-punk art-rock of the late 1970's.

Them Crooked Vultures, Them Crooked Vultures (Nov. 17): A supergroup that actually lives up to its promise. Imagine that.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

In brief

HMV'S TOP ALBUMS

POP

1. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle
2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli
3. Crazy Love, Michael Bublé
4. The Fame Monster, Lady Gaga
5. My World, Justin Bieber
6. Glee: Season One Volume 2
7. Vox Pop, Maxime Landry
8. Stereo Box Set, The Beatles
9. This Is It Soundtrack, Michael Jackson
10. Fearless, Taylor Swift

COUNTRY

1. Fearless (Platinum Edition), Taylor Swift
2. Christmas, Johnny Reid
3. Play On, Carrie Underwood
4. Lady Antebellum, Lady Antebellum
5. Dance With Me, Johnny Reid
6. Taylor Swift, Taylor Swift
7. The List, Roseanne Cash
8. The Foundation, Zac Brown Band
9. Defying Gravity, Keith Urban
10. Kicking Stones, Johnny Reid.

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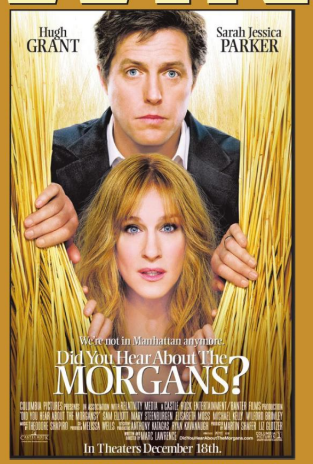

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Glee-ing up for a new choral conductor

Following in the footsteps of Kristin Chenoweth and Jonathan Groff, Tony winner Idina Menzel is in advanced talks to join the cast of Glee. If the deal goes through, she'll be playing the choir director for New Directions' rivals, Vocal Adrenaline. EW.COM

Television

Spectacular start to Elvis Costello's Spectacle

Elvis Costello is opening the second season of his interview show with a bang or, more accurately, a Bono.

One-half of U2 — Bono and the Edge — will be the first guests when the second season of Costello's show, Spectacle, launches Friday night. The British-born, Vancouver-based Costello introduces the Dublin band as the "last rock stars" during the show, which he taped at Toronto's storied Masonic Temple.

The band performed album tracks (Stuck in a Moment You Can't Get Out Of, Stay (Far-away, So Close!)) and a lesser-known gem (Two Shots of Happy, One Shot of Sad) which Bono says he wrote for Frank Sinatra. They then joined in a medley of their recent single Get On Your Boots with Costello's classic Pump It Up.

Costello, meanwhile, adopted the tone of a carnival barker as he closed out a version of Mysterious Ways and introduced the rockers — Bono clad in a brown leather jacket and V-neck T-shirt, with translucent wraparound shades obscuring his eyes, Edge with a Western-style button-down shirt and ears tucked under one of his signature toques.

As they chatted, Costello was brought back to the first time he ever heard U2.

Elvis Costello and the Attractions were headlining the Rock on the Tyne festival at International Stadium in Gateshead, England. They were at the "back end up of our pop star moment," and U2 was among a group of bands who took the stage before him.

"They were a rocket ship Costello told The Canadian Press in a recent telephone interview from New York.

Costello's interview show has become something of a prominent stage for the 55-year-old musician.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spectacle airs Friday

FRIDAY 12/11/09

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	The Santa Clause 2 ★★ (2002, Comedy) Tim Allen. (CC)				CBC News: The National (N)		The Hour (N)
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	Muppets Christmas: Letters		Medium (CC)		Spectacle (N) (CC)		News
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Dollhouse Topher discovers the dangers of science. (N)				NUMB3RS "Cover Me"		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	TMZ (N)	Law & Order "Fed" (N)		Law & Order: SVU		Comedy Now	Comedy Now	A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	Supernanny "Beck Family"		Ugly Betty "Be-Shure" (N)		The Jay Leno Show (N)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Smallville "Rabid" (CC)		Smallville "Echo" (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Yes, Virginia	Big Bang Th	Medium (CC)		NUMB3RS "Cover Me"		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Law & Order "Fed" (N)		Dateline NBC (N) (CC)		The Jay Leno Show (N)		KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	Big Daddy ★ (1999) Adam Sandler, Joey Lauren Adams.				20/20 (CC)		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Dollhouse Topher discovers the dangers of science. (N)				News	Most Wanted	Family Guy
news	502	390	23 NW	Wal-Mart Nation (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Wal-Mart Nation (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	UFC 107 Countdown		Hockey	Canucks TV	The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	Curling		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		World Poker Tour		30 for 30 (CC)		SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	Home Alone ★★★ (1990, Comedy) Macaulay Culkin. (CC)				Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	That's-Weird	Got No Head	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Batman	Wolverine	Justice	Star Wars	Futurama	King of Hill	Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow		
	268	354	5 KNO	Battlefield Mysteries (CC)		Poirot (N) (CC)		New Tricks (N) (CC)		Mandela ★★★ (1996) Premiere. (CC)		
	575	583	20 CMT	Christmas in Whistler (N)		Live & Up Front: Doc Walker		The Christmas Shoes (2002) Rob Lowe, Kimberly Williams.				Christmas
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds "Omnivore"		CSI: Miami (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	24 TLC	Dress	Dress	Say Yes	Dress	Dress	Dress	Dress	Dress	Dress
	616	522	39 SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		Howie Do It	Howie Do It	Kenny vs.	Kenny vs.	Law & Order: UK "Unsafe"		Cra$h & Burn
cable variety	294	650	57 TBS	Blades of Glory ★★★ (2007) Will Ferrell, Jon Heder.				My Best Friend's Wedding ★★★ (1997) Julia Roberts.				Must Love Dg
	603	561	69 FN	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives		Ramsay's Kitchen		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Throwdown With Bobby Flay		Diners
	-	-	96 AMC	Thunderhead: Son of Flicka ★★★ (1945)				(:45) Young Frankenstein ★★★★ (1974) Gene Wilder, Peter Boyle.				Blood
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:30) Trust (2008) (CC)		Push ★ (2009, Suspense) Chris Evans. Premiere. (CC)				Doomsday ★★ (2008) Rhona Mitra. (CC)		
	581	566	101 MTV	Teen Mom (CC)		1 girl 5 gays		Cribs (CC)		Cribs (CC)	Impact (CC)	Teen Mom (CC)

SATURDAY 12/12/09

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	NHL Hockey Minnesota Wild at Vancouver Canucks. (Live) (CC)					HNIC: After Hours		News	HNIC Replay
	250	321	9 CTV	Laughology (N)		It's a Wonderful Life ★★★★ (1946) James Stewart, Donna Reed. (CC) (DVS)						News
	252	336	11 GTV	renegade	Jane Show	Melrose Place "San Vicente"		Lethal Obsession (2007) Kellie Martin. Premiere. (CC)				News Final
	256	389	12 VI	New Canoe	Island Week	Kool Countdown (CC)		The Road to Avonlea		Christmas Together		Bravo!FACT
	253	359	13 CITY	My RONA Home		Glenn Martin	Out There	Clean ★★ (2004, Drama) Maggie Cheung, Nick Nolte. (CC)				Amazing
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Smash Cuts	Smash Cuts	The Hills	The Hills	CSI: NY (CC)		CSI: Miami
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment Tonight (N)		Rudolph, the Reindeer		The Flight Before Christmas		(:01) 48 Hours (N) (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Backroads	Inside Edition	It's a Wonderful Life ★★★★ (1946) James Stewart, Donna Reed. (CC) (DVS)						KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	Miracle Season		The Polar Express ★★★ (2004) Voices of Tom Hanks.				Castle "Fool Me Once"		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Cops (N) (PA)	Cops (CC)	America's Most Wanted		News	Most Wanted	Wanda Sykes
news	502	390	23 NW	The Third Sex (CC)		National	Issue	National	Mansbridge	The Third Sex (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Newsroom
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	English Premier League Soccer				Poker After Dark (CC)		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Poker
	400	400	30 TSN	Curling			SportsCentre	(Live) (CC)	Boxing	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	To Grandmother's House		Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Got No Head	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	A Dennis the Menace Christmas (2007) Robert Wagner.				Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Venture Bros.	Moral Orel
	268	354	5 KNO	National Geographic		Heartbeat (CC)		Midsomer Murders "Talking to the Dead" (N) (CC)				Indigo
	575	583	20 CMT	The Sons of Mistletoe (2001, Drama) Roma Downey, George Newbern.					The Sons of Mistletoe (2001, Drama) Roma Downey.			
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds "Damaged"		CSI: Miami (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	24 TLC	Ghost Intervention (N) (CC)		Dateline: Real Life Mysteries		Ghost Intervention (CC)		Ghost Intervention (CC)		How Not/Die
	616	522	39 SHO	The Guard (CC)		Alice (2009) (Part 1 of 2) Caterina Scorsone. (CC)				Resident Evil: Extinction ★★ (2007) (CC)		
cable variety	294	650	57 TBS	Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby ★★ (2006)				Road Trip: Beer Pong (2009) Preston Jones, Danny Pudi.				Road Trip
	603	561	69 FN	Top Chef: Las Vegas (CC)		The F Word (CC)		Dear Food Network (CC)		Chopped (CC)		Chef: Vegas
	-	-	96 AMC	(5:00) Ghost ★★★ (1990)		Grease ★★★ (1978, Musical) John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John.					Ghost ★★★ (1990) (CC)	
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:10) Inkheart ★★ (2009)		Gran Torino ★★★ (2008) Clint Eastwood. Premiere. (CC)				Changeling ★★★ (2008) Angelina Jolie.		
	581	566	101 MTV	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	After	Impact (CC)	Sex News	1 girl 5 gays

SUNDAY 12/13/09

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Rudolph, the Reindeer		The Polar Express ★★★ (2004) Voices of Tom Hanks.				CBC News: The National (N)		News
	250	321	9 CTV	Transformers ★★★ (2007) Shia LaBeouf. Two races of robots wage war on Earth. (CC)						Christmas- White House		News
	252	336	11 GTV	16:9 Picture	Prod. Parker	Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	Amer. Dad	Family Guy	Amer Dad	News Final
	256	389	12 VI	TMZ (N) (CC)		The Christmas Blessing (2005) Neil Patrick Harris. (CC)				Spectacle: Elvis		New Canoe
	253	359	13 CITY	Survivorman (CC) (DVS)		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Ward Family" (N) (CC)				Conviction Kitchen		Amazing
	-	-	14 CW	Boston Legal (CC)		CSI: Miami "Man Down"		CSI: NY (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	60 Minutes (N) (CC)		The Mentalist "Miss Red"		Cold Case "Iced" (N) (CC)		Criminal Minds (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	NFL Football: Eagles at Giants			The Jim Mora	Dateline NBC (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Ward Family" (N) (CC)				Christmas- White House		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Brothers (N)	Brothers (N)	Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	Amer. Dad	News	Sports	House (CC)
news	502	390	23 NW	Battle for Our Planet (N)		Jelly Fish Invasion (CC)		CBC News: The National		Battle for Our Planet		Jelly Fish
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		State of the Union		Union
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	Boxing		The Ultimate Fighter				Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NFL Football: Eagles at Giants			SportsCentre	(Live) (CC)	Motoring	Canadian Dog Show		SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	Christmas	Flintstones	He-Man, She-Ra Christmas		ALF (CC)	ALF (CC)	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	6TEEN "Snow Job"		Futurama	King of Hill	Bromwell	Rick & Steve	John
	268	354	5 KNO	Six Degrees Could Change		Touch of Frost (CC)		Touch of Frost (CC)		New Tricks (CC)		Beautiful
	575	583	20 CMT	Cheer Moms	Cheer Moms	Tuckerville	Tuckerville	Rodeo		Cheer Moms	Cheer Moms	Cheer Moms
	615	520	31 A&E	Jacksons: A Family Dynasty		Jacksons: A Family Dynasty		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Jacksons: A Family Dynasty		Jacksons
	521	560	24 TLC	Born Without Arms (N)		Mermaid Girl: Last 6 Months		6 Going on 60 (CC)		Born Without Arms (CC)		Stories of ER
	616	522	39 SHO	Cra$h & Burn (CC)		Alice (2009) (Part 2 of 2) Caterina Scorsone. (CC)				Found.	Foundatn	Kenny vs.
cable variety	294	650	57 TBS	(6:45) Madagascar ★★★ (2005, Comedy)		Ace Ventura: Pet Detective ★★ (1994) Jim Carrey. (CC)				Delta Farce ★ (2007)		
	603	561	69 FN	Dinner: Impossible (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Get on Plate	Food	Iron Chef America (CC)		Dinner
	-	-	96 AMC	White C'mas	(:45) Holiday Inn ★★★ (1942) Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire.					White Christmas ★★★ (1954) (CC)		
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:55) 21 ★★ (2008) Jim Sturgess, Kevin Spacey. (CC)				Dexter "The Getaway" (N)		Yes Man ★★ (2008) Jim Carrey. (CC)		
	581	566	101 MTV	Real World-Road Rules		1 girl 5 gays	Over Bolts	Peak Season	Peak Season	Real World-Road Rules		1 girl 5 gays

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taylor Kitsch, Scott Porter and Gaius Charles helped make Friday Night Lights about much more than Texas high school football.

The Canadian Press picks top ten TV shows of the decade

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT (2003-2006) It may be the most successful unsuccessful TV show of the decade; an irreverent, wacky sitcom that thrilled its faithful audience while bewildering countless others with its non-sequitur sense of humour.

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (1997-2003) Before Twilight took a stab at dissecting teen angst with romantic fantasy, this nuanced dramedy sunk its teeth into adolescent pain with a disarming realism that belied its lighthearted, supernatural premise.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS (STARTED 2006) Perhaps nowhere did America seem more real in the past decade than in Dillon, Texas, where residents confronted the Iraq war, racism and unemployment as they cheered on their beloved Panthers.

GILMORE GIRLS (2000-2007) No, the breakneck babble shared between every character is not realistic. But Lorelai Gilmore and her daughter, Rory, are such meticulously drawn characters that they feel like old friends.

LOST (STARTED IN 2004) With compelling characters, spellbinding storylines and mythical symbolism about a bunch of plane-crash survivors on a mysterious tropical island, Lost has bridged the gap between the genres of sci-fi and network drama.

THE OFFICE (U.K.) (2001-2003) Not only hilarious and unnervingly clever, this British breakout reinvented the sitcom on both sides of the pond with its awkward humour and sly, deadpan delivery.

THE SOPRANOS (1999-2007) When creator David Chase introduced mob boss Tony Soprano (James Gandolfini) to the world, he instantly lifted the traditional pop-culture Mafioso image from one-dimensional caricature to a nuanced enigma

30 ROCK (STARTED IN 2006) With the impossibly clever one-liners and self-referential storylines on 30 Rock, Tina Fey's Liz Lemon has became the decade's Mary Tyler Moore, wowing us with her clever jabs at NBC and pithy pokes at product placement.

VERONICA MARS (2004-2007) The short-lived series was a high-school noir, from its masterfully plotted first-season murder whodunit to the way that even its sunny California scenes were always shaded in foreboding tones.

THE WIRE (2002-2008) Critics have suggested it's not only the best show of the decade, but TV's best show of all time. The crime drama examined the crooks and cops in crime-plagued Baltimore, giving equal face time to both sides.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Easy as ABC, 123...4?
Michael Jackson's brothers are planning a world tour as the Jackson 4. The remaining members of the group — Marlon, Tito, Jackie and Jermaine — announced their plans Wednesday for a reunion next year. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Seal's selects for compilation show his range

NED EHRBAR
for Metro World News

Seal is doing his best to battle jet-lag. He's just arrived in California from Australia, winding down a packed press tour to promote his new compilation, Hits, before joining wife Heidi Klum and their four children for the holidays. But he's not complaining.

"I'm not tired," he insists. "Tired is for the weak. I'll just stand for a bit, or else it will all go downhill quite fast."

A retrospective is an odd choice for the British singer, as he's not a big fan of looking back.

"I don't look back at my career and take a trip down memory lane," he says.

"The funny thing is I never listen to any of my own music at home. Heidi has a habit of playing them. When I finished System and the Soul album, she just played them to

"I don't look back at my career and take a trip down memory lane."
Seal

death. And what I would always do is I'd leave the room."

The one hit in particular gives him the most pause is Kiss From a Rose, the single that catapulted him to fame.

"I can't stand singing it or the most part," he admits.

"It was the one I was most embarrassed by when I wrote it. I just thought it meandered all over the place.

"But then I've come to appreciate it — I haven't really written anything quite like it. And therefore I think it's the one I'm most proud of."

While he's not a fan of looking back on his career — compilation albums not withstanding — Seal is very candid about how his life with Klum has turned out.

"Do we have issues? Of course we have issues. But in the grand scheme of things we don't, not compared to some of the issues

"I see other families have and other couples have. We don't have a leg to stand on when it comes to complaining," he says.

"I've paid my dues. Both Heidi and myself worked our asses off to get here. No one gave it to us."

And Seal isn't shy about speculating as to what's made him so successful — or sharing his opinions on his fellow countrymen.

"My purpose for doing this was to emphasize the dynamic aspect of my career," he says of the compilation, which covers everything in his diverse career, from Crazy to last year's exploration into soul classics.

"Take a band like Coldplay. They've just made the same record four times," he said,

"It's same record, with a little bit of piano intro, then he comes in with a sort of ardent, sailing vocal that you're not quite sure what it means.

"It's a formula that works. And they've just repeated it four times. And I've never really been remotely interested in doing that."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Seal's smooth soaring vocals on his hit ballad Kiss from a Rose catapulted him to stardom in 1994

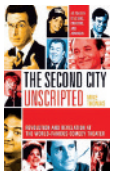
YTV is a trade-mark of the Corus™ Entertainment group of companies.

Second City marks half a century

NED EHRBAR
for Metro World News

As many of its illustrious alumni as it can manage will descend on Chicago this weekend to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Second City — the troupe that spawned a classic sketch comedy TV series and launched the careers of countless comedians, from Gilda Radner and Bill Murray to Tina Fey and Steve Carell.

Two of its most famous member, Catharine O'Hara and Eugene Levy, are particularly looking forward to the reunion — and to sharing the stage again.



IN BOOK STORES: The Second City Unscripted has interviews with its stars and creators.

"I'm much more comfortable with him now than I ever was in the old days," O'Hara admits, as she and Levy have gone on to be mainstays in Christopher Guest's improvisation-inspired films, including Waiting for Guffman, Best in Show and A Mighty Wind, in which they played star-crossed folk singers Mitch Cohen and Mickey Crabbe.

The reunion special also doubles as a benefit for Second City's alumni fund. "They set it up for alumni of Second City who are going through any sort of troubles in their lives and need some financial help," O'Hara explains.

The prospect of reviving favourite characters from the past has its downside, Levy admits.

"We're going to try and bring some of the wigs out of the mothballs," Levy says.

"It's kind of sad in a way, but fun in another — sad to see us now, trying to do the same thing."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Catharine O'Hara and Eugene Levy with the old school City crew

Busey expecting first child

Gary Busey and girlfriend Steffanie Sampson are expecting their first child, TVGuide.com has confirmed. "Mr. Busey is thrilled and excited about the upcoming birth of his new son," his publicist Vicki Roberts, said TVGUIDE.COM

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Inglourious Basterds

DVD Never mind the critics, the subtitles and Brad Pitt. Quentin Tarantino's gloriously irreverent Second World War epic ups the ante on everything you love about movies — action, drama, suspense, humour, plain *badassery*, it's all here. And, for the record, it's not Pitt's film. It belongs to one German dude called Christophe Waltz.

2 Invictus

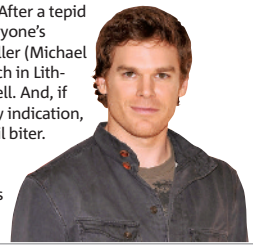
FILM When it comes to consistency in Hollywood, Clint Eastwood is as reliable as it gets. In his latest offering, about a game of rugby that united a post-apartheid South Africa, the director seems to have a winner once again. Matt Damon stars but all the buzz is around Morgan Freeman, who plays Nelson Mandela. Mr. Oscar's taking notes.

3 Charlotte Gainsbourg

CELEBRITY Belle de jour? You betcha! French pop icon Serge Gainsbourg's daughter made waves earlier this year for her shocking role in Antichrist — a role that was turned down by bigger names and one that eventually got her the best actress award at Cannes. Now, she's released a hypnotic new album called IRM (MRI in French) in collaboration with Beck. And she doesn't even consider herself an artist. (See below).

4 Dexter Season 4 Finale

TV Kudos to John Lithgow (and the writers) for adding some fresh dramatic blood to this crime series. After a tepid third season, everyone's favourite serial killer (Michael C. Hall as Dexter) met a match in Lithgow's devious Arthur Mitchell. And, if the last few episodes are any indication, the finale will be one big nail biter. Season 4's episode 12 airs Sunday on The Movie Network. Check local listings for times.



5 Spectacle

SERIES The second-season opener of Elvis Costello's music show is quite the spectacle. The British-born, Vancouver resident has locked in Bono and The Edge for the episode, who perform several U2 hits. Spectacle airs today on CTV. Check local listings for times.

6 The Onion Presents Our Front Pages: 1988-2008

BOOK One of the world's funniest "newspapers" compiles its finest cover pages. Sample headlines: Canada signs non-aggression pact with the United States (1990); New Starbucks opens in rest room of existing Starbucks (1998). Enough said.

7 Touch Pets: Dogs

APP Want a virtual woof? There's an app for that. Get your fingertips wagging with a cuddly canine of your choice with this social game. The app uses uses an energy system. As long as your puppy has been fed and has energy, you collect puppy bucks for participating in training exercises, "career" advancement, play time, and social engagements with other dogs. The "cash" is used to buy new toys and gear for your dog.

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THE TIME metro

Mix of Six

Allison Crowe's Tidings Concert

When: Friday
Where: St. James Hall (3214 West 10th Avenue)

Tidings stirs together traditional Christmas carols and holiday favourites with an organic blend of rock, jazz, folk, gospel and soul. Tix: $17-$22. Info: Allisoncrowe.com.

SPCA Fundraiser

When: Saturday
Where: The King of Floors (88 Avenue and 120 Street)

Pet food, leashes, dog beds and donations are being accepted for the Surrey SPCA's Winter Warmth campaign. Sir Scruffy, the Lhasa Apso in the King of Floors commercials and a rescue pet himself, is the mascot for the event. Donations to the Surrey Food Bank also be accepted. Info: 604-591-6811.

Bright Nights

When: Ongoing
Where: Stanley Park Children's Farmyard

The 12th annual Bright Nights, which runs until Jan. 2, features a train ride through a forest transformed with millions of festive lights and raises money for the B.C. Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund. Info: vancouver.ca/parks/events/brightnights.

Canyon Lights

When: Ongoing
Where: Capilano Suspension Bridge

Capilano Suspension Bridge's annual Christmas celebration runs until Jan. 2, except Christmas. Around 250,000 lights will adorn the bridge and rainforest at the park. Proceeds from admissions go to the B.C. Professional Fire Fighters Burn Fund. Tix: $5 for children and $15 for adults, $35 for a family of four. Info: capbridge.com or 604-985-7474.

Festival of Lights

When: Opens Friday.
Where: VanDusen Botanical Gardens

VanDusen Gardens shines with more than a million lights for these family events. Evenings also include performances from community choirs, a candle shrine in support of the Make a Wish Foundation and visits from Santa. Tix: $8-$15, families $29.50. Info: vandusen.org.

Vancouver Farmers Market Holiday Market

When: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Where: Croatian Cultural Centre

The 14th annual holiday market features goods from more than 100 farmers, wild harvesters, home businesses, artisans and more. Tix: $2 suggested donation.

Crow, Blige join Lilith Fair

MUSIC Sheryl Crow, Mary J. Blige, Sugarland and Erykah Badu are among the artists who will join Sarah McLachlan during her revived Lilith Fair tour in 2010.

Canadian indie-pop duo Tegan and Sara, Toronto new-wave rockers Metric, and Philadelphia soul singer and actress Jill Scott are also among the artists announced.

Other performers include Emmylou Harris, Chantal Kreviazuk and Indigo Girls.

The all-female touring festival drew more than 1.5 million fans between 1997 and 1999 in its original incarnation.

Earlier this year, organizers announced that the festival would return next summer.

Though firm dates haven't been announced, organizers say the first round of shows will include stops in Calgary, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Entertainment in brief

AWARD Leonard Cohen and Michael Jackson headline a group who will receive lifetime achievement awards from the Grammys next year. Bobby Darin, David (Honeyboy) Edwards, Loretta Lynn, Andre Previn and Clark Terry will also receive the awards on Jan. 30, the night before the 52nd Annual Grammy Awards. A formal acknowledgment will also be made during that telecast. The award comes after an eventful year for Cohen, whose world tour produced newsmaking moments when the 75-year-old singer collapsed onstage in Spain. The Canadian songwriter was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yeah, we don't get it either
Georgia May Jagger was named Model of the Year at the British Fashion Awards on Wednesday night, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 17-year-old is the daughter of Jerry Hall and Mick Jagger. METRO NEWS SERVICES

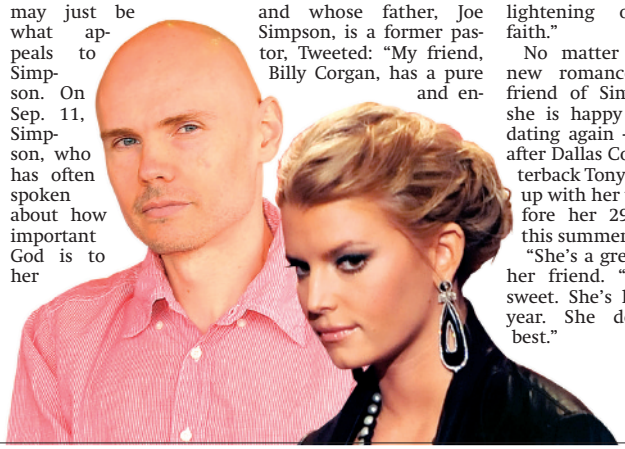
Celebrity Buzz

Is Jessica romancing a Pumpkin?

AT MIDNIGHT HE TURNS INTO A HAS-BEEN ROCK STAR Jessica Simpson and Smashing Pumpkins frontman Billy Corgan have started dating — and are taking things slow, says a source close to the pop star, people.com reports. "They are getting to know each other," says the source. "He's a nice guy."

On Friday, Simpson, 29, and Corgan, 42, were spotted together in New York City. She was in town earlier in the week for sister Ashlee Simpson Wentz's Broadway debut in the musical Chicago.

Corgan's spirituality may just be what appeals to Simpson. On Sep. 11, Simpson, who has often spoken about how important God is to her and whose father, Joe Simpson, is a former pastor, Tweeted: "My friend, Billy Corgan, has a pure and enlightening outlook on faith."



No matter where this new romance heads, a friend of Simpson's says she is dating again — especially after Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo broke up with her the night before her 29th birthday this summer.

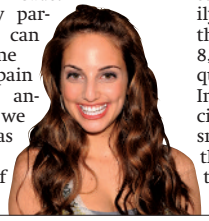
"She's a great girl," says her friend. "She's really sweet. She's had a tough year. She deserves the best."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Alexa Ray's folks lash out at media

GET WELL SOON, KIDDO In light of some media coverage of their daughter Alexa Ray Joel's recent hospital stay, her parents, Billy Joel and Christie Brinkley, have issued a statement to the media, people.com reports.

It reads: "Every parent can imagine the pain and anguish we face as parents of a daughter who is working to recover from the dangerous actions she took while suffering a devastating heartbreak.



"As much as we hate dignifying tabloid stories with a response, we feel we must set the record straight to protect our family. The story that ran in the New York Post on Dec. 8, and has been subsequently spread across the Internet, is filled with vicious lies and attempts to smear our character and that of our beloved daughter." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity tweets

John Mayer muses about cheating, Kirstie Alley tries to lead Tiger out of the Woods, Nicole Richie has career advice for Big Bird, and Hugh Hefner continues to gross us out.

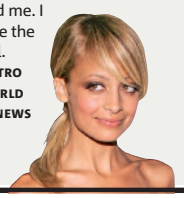
• @johncmayer If a man really wanted to get away with cheating on his woman, he'd store his other girls' name in his phone as "low battery."

• @kirstiealley I beg Mr. Woods to REFUSE to pay his extorters. Let em sell their idiot stories Just step up and give $ to people who really need it. FORGIVEN

• @nicolerichie How did Elmo end up the star of Sesame Street? When I was little it was all about Big Bird! Now he's a has-been. He needs a good scandal.

• @hughhefner Things are getting serious with Crystal and me. I love the girl.

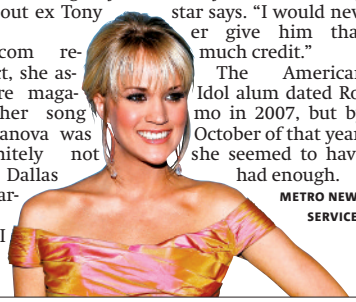
METRO WORLD NEWS



Underwood: Romo didn't inspire any of my songs

THERE GO ALL MY 'BEFORE HE CHEATS' THEORIES Carrie Underwood isn't writing any sad songs about ex Tony Romo, usmagazine.com reports. In fact, she assures Esquire magazine that her song Cowboy Casanova was most definitely not about the Dallas Cowboys quarterback.

"No, I would never immortalize a guy that did me wrong," the 26-year-old country star says. "I would never give him that much credit."



The American Idol alum dated Romo in 2007, but by October of that year, she seemed to have had enough.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Levi's Playgirl cover brings in lumpy sales

HANG OUT THERE, LEVI It seems that Levi Johnston's big old Playgirl.com reveal was a bit flaccid in sales department, popeater.com reports

"Nowhere near enough people paid the $19.95 to cover the reported $150,000 the fading brand paid the Alaskan hunk to go rogue," a magazine source tells the website. METRO NEWS SERVICES

NFL star claims Tila lied about assault

SHOTS AT TEQUILA San Diego Chargers superstar Shawne Merriman is suing his former girl friend Tila Tequila, claiming she lied about claims Merriman beat her up back in September in an attempt to ruin his career, TMZ.com

In the lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court, Merriman claims Tila posted all sorts of lies on her website, including stories that Merriman "choked and attacked" her, "sleeps with minors and forces them to take drugs," and that he manufactures drugs in his home.

Merriman also claims in the documents that Tequila admitted her lying scheme, at one time stating, "yes that is why I did a 'spin' now … cuz now everyone is LOVINGGGG me.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Could Jake be planning a Yuletide proposal?

HE DOES HAVE A NEW MOVIE TO PROMOTE Reese Witherspoon has apparently been a very good girl, because Santa Claus (a.k.a. Jake Gyllenhaal) is supposedly going to pop the question to his gal pal over the holidays, Naughty But Nice is exclusively reporting.

Just days after a false rumor circulated that the cute couple had split, Gyllenhaal apparently decided the time was right to settle down and buy the ring. "Her children love him, his family loves her and now it's time to make it official," a source said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jolie excited to take kids to new Disney flick

MICKEY JUST GOT THE BEST PR EVER Heading to the movies this weekend to see Disney's new Princess and the Frog film? There's a chance you might be sitting next to the world's most famous mother, Angelina Jolie.

The megastar, who has four children of different ethnic backgrounds, "can't wait to take her children to see Disney's first black princess," a source tells popeater.com. "Her daughter Z (Zahara) loves playing princess around the house and has watched Brandy's TV version of the musical Cinderella so many times that she knows all the words."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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The Weather Network ©The Weather Network 2009

Today Cloudy 1°/ -1°

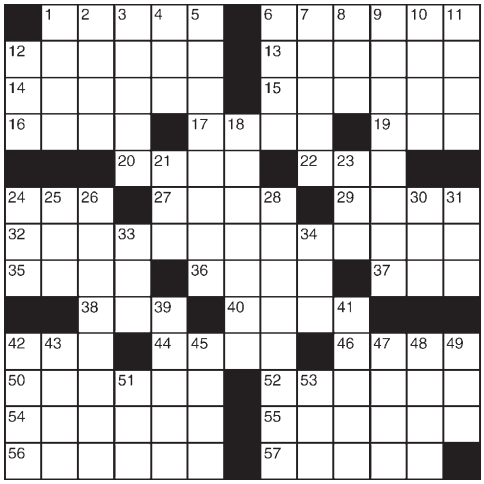
Saturday 40% Flurries 1°/ 0°

Sunday 40% Rain and snow 4°/ 2°

TAKE THE WEATHER WITH YOU visit mobile.theweathernetwork.com

Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**



ACROSS

1 Exact moment
6 Ducks
12 Sweatshirt type
13 Strip
14 Against difficulties
15 Starbucks size
16 Mexican money
17 Rams fans?
19 Dancer Charisse
20 Partner
22 Keatsian piece
24 — de deux
27 Siamese
29 On the rocks
32 Rare
35 Lowly laborer
36 Corner
37 Opposite of "post-"
38 Kvetch
40 Took to the skies
42 Copper head?
44 Oldies player
46 Status in a hierarchy
50 Press hard, as brakes
52 Fan, and then some
54 Majestic
55 Show hosts
56 "Allakazam!"
57 Fists, slangily

DOWN

1 Vatican VIP
2 Ahs' partners
3 Figure of speech
4 Goose egg
5 Fundraising show
6 Advantage
7 Lefthand page
8 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
9 Mortarboard's opposite?
10 Vortex
11 Start a garden
12 Cadence-call syllable
18 Gradually disappear
21 — standstill
23 Noise
24 Vim and vigor
25 Chopper
26 Old time?
28 Put on a pedestal
30 Screw up
31 Coloring agent
33 Geneticist's abbr.
34 Mamie's hubby
39 Common Halloween costume
41 Destruction
42 Now, initially
43 Vision problem
45 Grooving on
47 Sheltered
48 Yeses' undoers
49 Gold units (Abbr.)
51 Greek consonants
53 Flightless bird

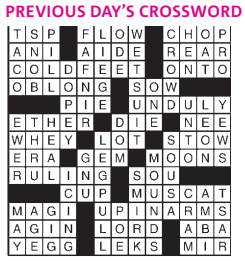
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

2	1						4	6
			8		4			
4		3				9		7
		4	3		9	1		
	6						2	
		8	6		2	5		
8		9				2		5
			7		5			
1	5						7	9

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



1	8	7	2	6	4	9	5	3
4	3	9	7	8	5	6	1	2
5	2	6	9	3	1	8	4	7
9	1	3	6	2	8	4	7	5
7	6	5	1	4	9	3	2	8
8	4	2	3	5	7	1	9	6
6	9	8	4	7	2	5	3	1
2	5	4	8	1	3	7	6	9
3	7	1	5	9	6	2	8	4

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Creamy Liver with Leeks and Bacon

INGREDIENTS:

6 strips bacon, chopped
1 lb (500 g) calf's liver, thinly sliced
2/3 lb (300 g) baby leeks, sliced diagonally
2 tsp (10 ml) oil, if needed
1 1/3 cups (325 ml) beef stock
2 tbsp (25 ml) balsamic vinegar
4 tbsp (60 ml) heavy cream

METHOD:

1. Heat wide sauté pan and fry bacon over fairly high heat 4-5 minutes or until golden brown. Lift out with slotted spoon.
2. Add liver to pan and fry quickly about 2 minutes per side or until evenly coloured. Remove and keep hot with bacon.
3 Add leeks to pan, with oil if needed, and fry for 30 seconds, stirring. Stir in stock and heat until boiling. Simmer 2-3 minutes or until leeks are just tender.
4 Stir in balsamic vinegar and return liver and pancetta or bacon to pan. Stir in heavy cream. Bring to boil. Adjust seasoning to taste and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You will get a huge burst of extra energy today as the Sun makes the best possible angle to your ruler Mars.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Family and financial matters will take up most of your time today but if you knuckle down you won't have to worry about them again for quite some time.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
If there is something you have done that you are less than proud about now is a good time to own up and get it off your conscience.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Good news is coming your way and it is the kind of news you will want to share, so spend time with friends and family and put work plans on hold.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Why is everyone so cautious and fearful? Whatever the reason there is no reason why you should let their negative attitude rub off on you.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't be afraid to take a few chances today and don't be suspicious if someone in a position of power offers you something you have long desired.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
This is the kind of day when you will want to get things done, but because others are not so ambitious you may have to go it alone.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You will find it easy enough to convince people to support you today, even if they don't quite believe that you know what you are doing.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 22-DEC 21
Some people seem to be under the impression that you will be there for them every hour and every minute of every day.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't give in too easily today, especially on the work front where colleagues and employers will happily take advantage if you don't stand up for yourself.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
There is no point dwelling on what might have been and the good news today is that you will be too busy having fun to worry about failures.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Today's cosmic alignment can help you break a habit that once held you up but is now holding you back.

TAKE A BREAK FROM WORK

Visit metronews.ca to watch metrotube of the day

This day in history

1941: World War II: Germany and Italy declare war on the United States, following the Americans' declaration of war on Japan in the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The United States, in turn, declares war on Germany and Italy.
1962: The last execution ever in Canada occurs to Arthur Lucas for murder
1964: Che Guevara speaks at the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. An unknown terrorist fires a mortar shell at the building during the speech.
2008: Bernard Madoff is arrested and charged with securities fraud in a $50 billion Ponzi scheme.

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Star Trek	**MOVIE B**
Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince	**MOVIE C**
The Hangover	**MOVIE D**
X-Men Origin: Wolverine	**MOVIE E**
Angels & Demons	**MOVIE F**
District 9	**MOVIE G**

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Sun Airfares

Jamaica
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+ taxes & fees $259

Cancun	from $215 + taxes & fees $280
Puerto Vallarta	from $215 + taxes & fees $280
Punta Cana	from $218 + taxes & fees $311
Huatulco	from $298 + taxes & fees $263
Honolulu	from $399 + taxes & fees $92
Ixtapa	from $399 + taxes & fees $266
Los Cabos	from $471 + taxes & fees $265
Costa Rica	from $647 + taxes & fees $201

Airfares

Toronto	one-way from $179 + taxes & fees $54
Phoenix	from $189 + taxes & fees $90
Las Vegas	from $199 + taxes & fees $91
London	from $249 + taxes & fees $465
Rome	from $499 + taxes & fees $392
Hong Kong	from $659 + taxes & fees $160
Lima	from $789 + taxes & fees $215
Bangkok	from $799 + taxes & fees $343
Sydney	from $1099 + taxes & fees $382

Cruise Vacations

Hawaiian Islands
7-Night Cruise — from $670 + taxes & fees $90

CRUISE roundtrip Honolulu and visit Maui (overnight), Big Island (Hilo & Kona) and Kauai (overnight).

Mexican Riviera
11-Night Cruise — from $689 + taxes & fees $104

CRUISE roundtrip San Diego and visit Los Cabos, Mazatlan, Puerto Vallarta, Acapulco, Ixtapa and Manzanillo.

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Belize Sailing Adventure
7-day Tour — from $1079 taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Ambergris Caye, Turneffe Islands, Lighthouse Reef, Glover's Reef Marine Reserve, Tobacco Caye, snorkelling and island-hop sailing between Cayes on your very own sailboat. Roundtrip San Pedro.

Costa Rica 16-day Tour — from $1409 taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Puerto Viejo de Talamanca, Tortuguero, Rara Avis, Arenal Volcano, Monteverde Cloud Forest and Manuel Antonio National Park. Roundtrip San José.

Egypt & Jordan 17-day Tour — from $1839 taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Pyramids, the Sphinx, Khan el-Khalili bazaar, Elephantine Island, Felucca sailing trip, Luxor, Valley of the Kings, Mount Sinai, Red Sea, Wadi Rum, Petra and Amman. Departs Cairo.

Japan 9-day Tour — from $1939 taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Mt. Fuji, Hakone, Ryokan Stay, Miyajima, Torii Gate, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Nijo Castle, Ryoan Ji Temple, Kinkaka Ji Temple, Koyasan and Osaka. Departs Tokyo.

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Puerto Vallarta Christmas
7 Nights 4-Star — from $948 + taxes & fees $263

Costa Rica Christmas
7 Nights 4-Star — from $1197 + taxes & fees $201

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Ireland 10-Day Tour — from $2035 taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Galway, Kylemore Abbey, Cliffs of Moher, Foynes, Killarney, Blarney and Kilkenny. Roundtrip Dublin.

Central Europe
12-Day Tour — from $2265 taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Dachau, Regensburg, Pilsen, Prague, Bratislava, Vienna, Venice, Verona, Lugano, Lucerne and Zurich. Departs Munich.

Western Europe
11-Day Tour — from $2335 taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Venice, Milan, Lucerne, Paris and London. Departs Rome.

Italy 11-Day Tour — from $2599 taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Assisi, Florence, Pisa, Bologna and Venice. Departs Rome.

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USA & Canada Vacations

Scottsdale
Air + 3 Nights 5-Star — from $559 + taxes & fees $97

Quebec City & Ice Hotel
Air + 3 Nights — from $698 + taxes & fees $118

INCLUDES first night at the Ice Hotel and 2 nights in Quebec City. ADD 3-day car rental from $56 per day.

Big White
Air + 4 Nights + Lift Passes — from $744 + taxes & fees $56

INCLUDES air to Kelowna, accom and 3-day lift pass.

New York
Air + 3 Nights + Transfers — from $777 + taxes & fees $120

Banff
Air + 5 Nights + 4 Day Lift Passes — from $869 + taxes & fees $94

INCLUDES air to Calgary, accom and 4 day lift pass for skiing at Banff, Lake Louise & Sunshine.
ADD a snowmobile tour from Banff from $289.

February Escape Vacations

Hawai'i Air + 7 Nights
from **$799**
+ taxes & fees $93

INCLUDES Waikiki accom. ADD 7-day car rental from $35.

Las Vegas Air + 3 Nights — from $319 + taxes & fees $105

ADD Cirque du Soleil tickets from $138.

Anaheim
Air + 7 Nights + Transfers — from $494 + taxes & fees $101

ADD 7-day *Disneyland* Resort *Park Hopper* Bonus Ticket where Adults pay kids pricing from $184.

Big White
Air + 4 Nights + Lift Passes — from $744 + taxes & fees $56

INCLUDES air to Kelowna and 3-day lift pass.
ADD ski or snowboard equipment rentals from $30

Manzanillo
7 Nights 4-Star All-inclusive — from $848 + taxes & fees $263

Puerto Vallarta
7 Nights 4-Star All-inclusive — from $887 + taxes & fees $263

Los Cabos
7 Nights 5-Star All-inclusive — from $987 + taxes & fees $263

Varadero
7 Nights 4-Star All-inclusive — from $1065 + taxes & fees $206

Cancun
7 Nights 4.5-Star All-inclusive — from $1098 + taxes & fees $274

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*Conditions apply. Ex: Vancouver. USA and international air only prices are per person for return travel unless otherwise stated. Domestic air only prices are per person for one-way travel unless otherwise stated. Package, cruise, tour, rail & hotel prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Prices are subject to availability at advertising deadline and are for select departure dates. Prices are accurate at time of publication, errors and omissions excepted, but are subject to change. Taxes & fees include transportation related fees, GST and fuel supplements and are approximate and subject to change. **$25 vouchers can be combined together up to a maximum value of $250. Vouchers are valid on a cruise, tour or package booking. Cruise or tour must be minimum 7 days or longer. Package must include roundtrip airfare and minimum 3 nights accommodation. Vouchers are transferable. Vouchers cannot be redeemed for cash. Valid on new bookings only. Vouchers must be used by June 30th, 2010. Offer expires Dec 31, 2009. ‡No purchase necessary. Up to a maximum value of $3000. Valid on new bookings only. Bookings must be paid in full by December 31st, 2009. Contest ends December 31st, 2009. Must be age of majority to enter. Full contest rules available at www.flightcentre.ca/contest. ΔAll tours must be booked by January 15th, 2010 with all travel completed by December 31, 2010. Save $100 on tours over $1000, save $150 on any Marine tour over $2000, save $200 on any Marine tour over $3000. ^Save up to $1050 based on Trafalgar's 7.5% Early Payment Discount valid on new bookings only when payment on land portion is paid in full between October 20 – December 31st, 2009 for travel between April 15 – October 20, 2010. Not combinable with Companion Flies Free offer. Subject to availability and offers may be withdrawn at any time. Offer expires Dec 31, 2009. † The Perfect Holiday Promise applies to bookings made at Flight Centre shops within Canada. A $100 voucher for future travel will be provided to customers who experience an unwanted deviation from their paid itinerary. For full details visit www.flightcentre.ca or speak to a Flight Centre consultant. BC REG: #HO2790*